

## Group 'tried to kill Rushdie'

BEIRUT (R) — A hitherto unknown group in Lebanon said Friday one of its members died in London while preparing to kill British author Salman Rushdie, threatened with death by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. "Muslims ensure that this martyr, Ghazir, who died while preparing a daring attack against the apostate Salman Rushdie," said a hand-written statement by the "Organisation of the Struggle of Islam." The statement, delivered to Beirut's Al Nahar newspaper, said anyone who supported Rushdie, including British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, would pay the price. A bomb-maker, believed to be Arab, blew himself up at a west London hotel Thursday in a blast which tore through the small five-storey Beverly House hotel in Paddington, starting a fire but leaving no other casualties. "If the first martyr fell on his way to the target, the following martyrs will hit the target. No one will be at rest," the statement said. Khomeini issued an order in February for Muslims to kill Rushdie for blasphemy against Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses." Several pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon said they would carry out the command.

# Jordan Times

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## Israelis seal off 21 Gaza buildings

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops sealed 20 stores and an apartment in an occupied Gaza Strip town Friday as punishment for a grenade attack on a military patrol.

The attack in Khan Yunis Thursday wounded three Israeli soldiers and four Palestinians. Troops opened fire, injuring 16 Palestinians, hospital officials said.

An army spokesman said the Gaza Strip commander ordered the stores and the abandoned apartment from where the grenade was thrown closed.

Troops seal or demolish buildings of Palestinians suspected of leading attacks.

Plastic bullets "not lethal". The Israeli supreme court ruled Thursday that the army's firing orders for plastic bullets are legal.

Use of the bullets, introduced last August as a less-lethal alternative to lead bullets, was challenged by Israeli attorney Felicia Langer.

In a suit filed last Jan. 22, Langer urged the court to block use of the plastic ammunition or put strict limits on when it can be fired.

"It is lethal, and the regulations should be the same" as for lead bullets, she said.

Army rules call for lead ammunition to be used only when a soldier's life is in danger. Plastic ammunition can be fired to break up demonstrations and, according to the army, is not lethal if fired at a distance of 70 metres or more.

Human rights group say that at least 100 of the 527 Palestinians

who have been shot to death by Israeli troops or civilians in the 19-month uprising died from plastic bullets.

Kelly continues mission. Meanwhile, visiting U.S. envoy John Kelly met with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin as part of an introductory regional tour that also will include Egypt and Jordan.

A two-hour meeting Thursday with Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Palestinians complained that talks in Tunis between the U.S. and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were progressing too slowly and urged the U.S. to re-evaluate its pro-Israel stance.

Faisal Husseini, a PLO supporter from Jerusalem recently released after more than a year in Israeli detention, told the Associated Press Friday that the group reiterated the PLO's conditions for accepting the Israeli offer of elections in the territories.

"We urged the United States to accept Palestinian rights to self-determination, to accept an international peace conference and to force Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories," Husseini said.

The 13 Palestinian leaders who met with Kelly said in a statement that they considered the session "to be part of the ongoing U.S.-PLO dialogue."

Radwan Abu Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Association, said the Palestinians told Kelly that "nothing could happen here without PLO approval" and that Israel must be convinced to

accept the American-backed concept of land-for-peace.

He said Kelly, in turn, warned that while the United States would assist in the peace process, it was up to the Palestinians and Israel to offer proposals acceptable to each other.

"We are not going to deliver you to Israel, neither are we going to deliver Israel to you. There is a table of negotiations, and you have to make your own way to this table and you have to learn how to live together," Abu Ayyash quoted Kelly as saying.

The Palestinians, who included doctors, lawyers and other professional people from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, presented a petition outlining their concerns.

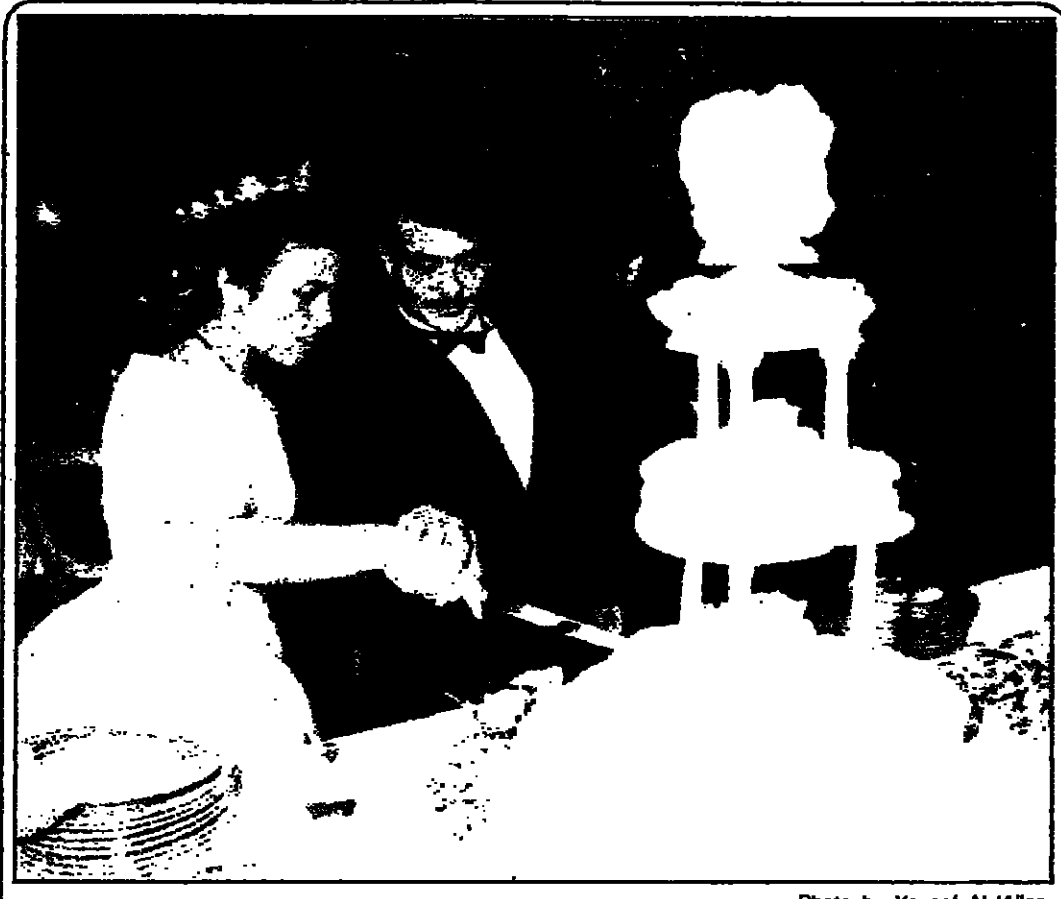
It began by saying that the U.S.-PLO dialogue in Tunis "has so far demonstrated an alarming lack of progress in matters of substance and the levels of representation" and called on the U.S. for "a candid reappraisal" to make it more effective.

The petition noted that the United States has endorsed the Israeli initiative, which calls for elections in the occupied lands, but not the PLO initiative, which says the elections should lead to creation of a Palestinian state.

"We view with the greatest seriousness the lack of evenhandedness and objectivity in the U.S. response," the petition said.

Kelly arrived in Egypt later Friday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

On arrival from Tel Aviv, Kelly told reporters he was looking forward to the discussions with Egyptian leaders, which start Saturday.



ROYAL WEDDING: Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein and her groom Mr. Majidi Anwar Saleh cut the cake at their wedding Thursday (see page 3)

## Hostage situation eases with Iranian offer of help

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The Lebanese hostage crisis eased slightly Friday as U.S. President George Bush responded with encouragement to statements by the Iranian president that there exists "a reasonable solution" to the situation.

In other developments one day after the Revolutionary Justice Organisation gave American hostage Joseph Cicippio a reprieve from execution:

"The United States continued its intense diplomatic efforts to gain the release of Western hostages, amid reports that it is prepared to act militarily."

Israeli leaders awaited word from Lebanese kidnappers on its efforts to arrange a swap.

A U.N. representative met with Shi'ite leaders in Beirut.

In Tehran, Iran's new president, Hashemi Rafsanjani, said: "I tell the White House, the problem of Lebanon has solutions, the freeing of the hostages has solutions, reasonable, prudent solutions."

In his first foreign policy remarks since taking office Thursday, Rafsanjani said: "These brawls, arrogant approaches and tyranny will not solve the problems. Come let us approach the problem reasonably. We too will help solve the problems there. So the people of the region can live in peace and harmony."

In response, Bush said he would explore "to the fullest" the offer by Iran to help find a solution to the hostage situation, but emphasised he did not want to raise the hopes of the hostages' families.

"I was certainly pleased that the brutal murder (of Cicippio) that had been threatened was set aside," Bush said. "I don't know the total role of any individual country in that area in all of this but when you see a statement that offers hope for the return of our

hostages, I want to explore it to the fullest."

Meanwhile, Bush was reported to have personally contacted at least nine foreign leaders since Monday in his effort to put pressure on Iran and Syria, regarded by Washington as having influence with the groups holding hostages.

"We have engaged in an extraordinary broad exercise of diplomacy in the last couple of days and I am pleased about that," he said. "I feel a burden of going to every end possible to try to get the return of these Americans and find out the truth about Colonel (William) Higgins," who was reported hanged by captors on Monday.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater called the activity the most defined and high-level diplomatic effort he had ever seen in the Reagan and Bush administrations.

According to reports, Bush spoke by telephone during the past few days to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal of Turkey, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Hassan of Morocco, His Majesty King Hussein, Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman, President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria and Pope John Paul.

In addition, Secretary of State James Baker was reported to have spoken twice to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and, through aides, worked on the issue with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who visited Tehran on Tuesday and took it up with Rafsanjani. On returning to Moscow, Shevardnadze briefed U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock.

In addition, Reuters reported that Iranian sources in the Middle East said the United States had

sent a message to Iran through the Swiss ambassador in Tehran, holding Iran responsible for the safety of American hostages in Lebanon.

Nonetheless, the New York Times reported that Bush was prepared to order air strikes against militia strongholds in Lebanon if a death threat against Cicippio was carried out. Quoting unidentified Administration officials, the newspaper stated that the plan was still alive and could be put into effect if Cicippio or any other American hostage in Lebanon was killed. The plan called for the U.S. Sixth Fleet to hit targets in Lebanon with carrier aircraft that were moved within striking distance in the past three days.

The plan was held in check after the kidnap group suspended its death decree on Cicippio, the newspaper said.

Baker said the report was "very hypothetical and very speculative."

In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Israel's other top government leaders consulted through the day on a response to the kidnappers.

Shamir told reporters that Israel was "waiting for proposals" from the group, which promised in a communique issued in Beirut that it would provide a list of prisoners whose release it is demanding.

"We hope we will get some proposals and it will be the end of the crisis," Shamir said.

He also defended the army's kidnapping of a Lebanese Shi'ite cleric — which set off the hostage crisis — saying Israel felt free to act on its own to rescue its captured soldiers even if the "civilised world" did not agree.

In Beirut, U.N. envoy Marrack Goulding, met three pro-Iranian Shi'ite leaders with close links to the kidnappers.

## Fateh congress fully behind Arafat strategy

TUNIS (Agencies) — A mass meeting of mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction Fateh overwhelmingly backed PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's policy of peace through diplomacy and unarmed revolt in the Israeli-occupied territories, delegates said Friday.

Hardliners with reservations about the strategy Arafat adopted last year had turned out to be less numerous and less vocal than some Fateh leaders had expected, they said.

"There has been some debate but this is very much Yasser Arafat's conference," the congress chairman, Arafat adviser Nabil Shaath, told Reuters.

The five-day congress opened under tight security on Thursday and has since held three sessions behind closed doors.

By Thursday evening the organisers had checked in 980 delegates from across the world and another 179 were expected to arrive before the close, the organisers said.

Fateh, held its last congress in Damascus in 1980 and much of the work has been reviewing the past nine years.

Arafat's deputy in Fateh, Salah Khalaf, had predicted that Arafat would come under pressure to authorise military attacks outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Palestinians have been in revolt against Israeli rule since

December 1987.

In an opening speech Thursday, Arafat said there was no going back on the course the PLO had taken since the intifada made a Palestinian state a realistic target.

Shaath said the general debate was to end Friday night and work would then continue in committees.

The congress will elect at least five new leaders, probably Sunday, to fill vacancies in the Central Committee.

Five of the 15 committee members elected in 1980 have since left, either through assassination or expulsion, and under present rules there could be up to 18 members.

Those assassinated are Majed Abu Sharar, in Rome in 1981, Saad Sayel, in Lebanon in 1982, and Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), in Tunis in 1988. Nimr Saleh (Abu Saleh) and Samih Abu Qawasm were thrown out of Fateh after they led a rebellion against Arafat in 1983.

Some delegates favour changing the rules to expand the committee and dilute the domination of the leaders who helped Arafat create Fateh in Kuwait in the late 1950s.

Some 40 prominent Fateh members are lobbying for seats in the leadership but none has formally declared his candidacy.

Arafat said Thursday the PLO

disliked the original Israeli plan for elections in the occupied territories, but would have accepted it if it had aimed at giving the Palestinian people their right to self-determination.

Frequently interrupted by applause, Arafat made his comments at the opening of the Fateh congress.

The original Israeli election plan aimed at "perpetuating the Israeli occupation of the occupied territories" and has now collapsed in failure, Arafat declared.

"But the PLO would have accepted this plan if it had constituted a stage in the realisation of the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and freedom," he said.

"I take this opportunity," Arafat said, "to ask the American government how long it intends to continue ignoring the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and how many years we will still have to fight to emerge from the vicious circle of blood and suffering."

"The intifada will not stop until the conclusion of a peace treaty and the realisation of the Palestinian people's inalienable right to return to self-determination and to the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

The 1,050 delegates greeted Arafat's statement with a standing ovation.

## Austria closes investigation of spy-suspect American diplomat

VIENNA (AP) — Austria has closed its investigation in the case of Felix Bloch, a U.S. diplomat accused of spying for the Soviet Union, Interior Minister Franz Loeschmak said Friday.

In an interview with Austrian Radio, Loeschmak said 10 Austrian politicians, who had contacts with Bloch during the period he served at the U.S. embassy in Vienna from 1980-87, were asked to fill out questionnaires outlining their relationship with the American diplomat.

Austria took the action in response to a U.S. request that authorities question a number of Austrian politicians and officials in connection with the Bloch affair.

Bloch reportedly had broad contacts with politicians and officials in Austria, and regularly

attended diplomatic parties.

Austria has left it up to the individuals in question to give statements at their own discretion because it has no treaty with the United States governing investigations of such cases, Loeschmak said.

Some of the 10 officials have promised to comply, Loeschmak said, without naming any of them.

Bloch's contacts with Austrian politicians, "have no (relevance) for Austria's security interests," Loeschmak added.

Foreign Minister Alois Mock, until recently the head of the Conservative People's Party which governs in a coalition with the Socialists, was a close friend of Bloch's.

Former foreign ministers Peter Jankowitsch and Erwin Lanc,

both Socialists, also saw Bloch often, according to Austrian news media reports.

At a news conference July 28, Loeschmak said the allegations that Bloch worked as a spy for the Soviet Union while he was posted in Vienna are "the affair of the United States."

Loeschmak said that police also questioned an Austrian woman, with whom Bloch had an extended friendship.

The woman returned late last month from a vacation in Egypt, but Loeschmak said the questioning yielded no evidence that the woman knew or suspected anything about Bloch's alleged spying.

Bloch, 54, was economics chief in the U.S. embassy in Vienna from 1980-83 and then served as the embassy's number two official

until he returned to Washington in July 1987.

He is the highest-ranking U.S. diplomat to come under investigation for allegations of collaborating with the Soviets.

Bloch was suspended with pay by the U.S. State Department June 22. His diplomatic passport has been revoked, but no charges have been filed.

He is under constant FBI surveillance and is regularly trailed by reporters and cameramen. On Wednesday, he visited his Washington lawyer for the second time this week.

A U.S. television network has reported that a suspected Soviet agent met with Bloch in Paris in May and picked up the U.S. diplomat's travel bag after they dined together.

In reports from Paris, the U.S.

networks ABC and NBC both said Wednesday that the Soviet agent travelled on a Finnish passport in the name of Reino Gikman. ABC quoted French intelligence sources in reporting extensive details of Bloch's alleged meeting with the agent in Paris.

ABC said the meeting between Gikman and Bloch occurred May 14, the day Bloch arrived from New York. Both Gikman and Bloch were watched by French agents from the time of their arrival because of a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) tip, the network said.

U.S. government sources have said the FBI monitored a telephone call from the suspected Soviet agent in Paris to Bloch in Washington requesting the Paris meeting.

ABC said Bloch left his hotel

carrying a travel bag and passed Gikman without speaking on the Faubourg St. Honoré, a fashionable shopping street. Soviet officials were observed driving past the men, ABC said.

The report said Bloch stopped in front of store windows and appeared to use them as mirrors to see if anyone was following.

The two met at the nearby Hotel Merucie and French agents took still photographs of them as they had drinks and dinner, ABC said.

Bloch left first, the report said, and Gikman several minutes later picked up Bloch's travel bag as if it were his own and left.

ABC said French agents videotaped Gikman walking into his hotel with the bag and again the next morning leaving for the airport, still carrying the bag.

## Jordan to receive \$200m Saudi aid

By Ghadeer Taber  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Saudi Arabia has extended a grant of \$200 million to Jordan to help it tackle its economic problems, informed sources said Friday.

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi confirmed Riyadh's assistance but refused to disclose the actual figure. "It has been confirmed that Saudi Arabia is giving us aid, but I am not at liberty to quote the figure," he told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

However, Nabulsi dismissed as "not true" radio reports that Saudi Arabia has deposited \$1 billion with the Central bank as an interim measure to boost the Jordanian economy.

The Saudi assistance of \$200 million comes in the wake of a summit in Jeddah last week between His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz in which they discussed the latest developments in the Arab and international scenes and bilateral relations as well as Jordan's economy.

Saudi Arabia was the only one of seven designated donor countries to fulfil a promise to pay an annual total assistance of \$1.25 billion for 10 years under a resolution adopted at an Arab summit in Baghdad in 1978. The annual Saudi contribution amounted to about \$360 million. The other designated donors — Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Algeria, Iraq and Libya — only fulfilled part of the obligation. The failure of these countries to meet the commitment is seen as a major factor that led Jordan's present economic crisis.

In a statement issued after King Hussein's visit to Jeddah, last week, King Fahd reiterated his country's total support for Jordan and paid tribute to the strong links between the two countries.

"Saudi Arabia will always stand by Jordan on all fronts because Riyadh has total confidence in the wise policies of King Hussein and his leadership of the Jordanian people," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the statement as saying.

According to banking circles, the new Saudi financial assistance, coupled with Thursday's CBJ order for the merger of two Jordanian banks (see page 6), was expected to boost confidence in the Jordanian economy.

Jordan, seeking to address its estimated \$8 billion foreign debt, has already rescheduled part of the amount owed to governments. Talks are scheduled in London later this month with creditor banks to reschedule debts owed to financial institutions. In addition, the Kingdom has adopted a series of austerity measures to rationalise its imports and curb the outflow of foreign currency, including a dual exchange system under which commercial banks can deal in foreign currency as demanded by market forces but are restricted to an officially set exchange rate to finance imports of essential goods, some medicines and tuition fees for Jordanian students abroad.

The exchange rate for the dollar was set by commercial banks at about 850 fils to 870 fils after the CBJ decision to allow the two-tier exchange system. The official rate set by the Central Bank remained at 573/570 fils Wednesday.

## Nuclear treaty obstacles may take summit — U.S.

GENEVA (R) — The major obstacles to a U.S.-Soviet strategic arms treaty may have to be resolved in a superpower summit, the chief U.S. nuclear arms negotiator said Friday.

"Historically, we've seen that the major impediments in any negotiations have normally had to be resolved at the highest level," Ambassador Richard Burt told Reuters in an interview.

"But that doesn't in my mind mean that they can't be usefully discussed in the negotiations here in Geneva," he said, adding that the Geneva talks could often provide ideas for a high-level breakthrough.

Burt spoke shortly after holding the final substantive meeting in the first round of strategic arms reduction talks (START) under the Bush administration, designed to halve the superpowers' long-range nuclear arsenals. A final exchange of documents was scheduled for next Monday morning.

New to the job after serving as

ambassador to West Germany, Burt said that despite the significant disagreements that remain, the seven weeks of talks had exceeded his expectations.

"When I arrived here in June I assumed this session would be by and large a reconnaissance mission... to get a sense of where we stand," he said.

"We've done more than that. I think we've made a lot of good substantive progress on a range of important questions."

The START treaty being negotiated has about 400 pages and is much more complicated than the historic intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty signed at a summit in late 1987.

Burt said there are hundreds of secondary and tertiary outstanding issues that can be worked on independently of political decisions made in the capitals.

No summit has yet been set between President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, though both sides say they want one.

## All 34 killed in Greek air crash

ATHENS (Agencies) — Greece said Friday all 34 Greek passengers and crew were killed when their Olympic Aviation plane crashed into a mountain while preparing to land on the tourist island of Samos.

"No one has survived," Transport Minister Nicos Gelettathis said, angrily denying some foreign news reports that the crash Thursday could have been caused by extremists.

On the island, just off the Turkish coast in the eastern Aegean Sea, rescue teams carried bodies down steep cliffs to the town of Samos to be identified by relatives.

Army commandos, who climbed the mountain where a shepherd saw the plane go down, found bodies and pieces of the plane which had split in two.

The British-built Shorts SD-330, a twin-engine propeller plane, owned by Olympic Airways, was on a flight from the northern city of Salonika when it crashed.

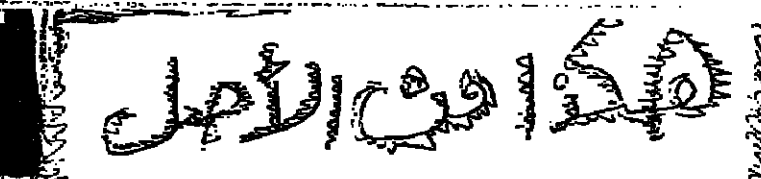
Olympic said the pilot, Petros Mountzouras, was one of the airline's most experienced employees and that the aircraft, bought in 1981, was in good condition.

Officials ruled out the possibility that sabotage could have been involved in the crash.

"It appears that thick fog in the area at the time played the villain's role as the pilot flew blindly into the mountain," said an Olympic official who asked not to be identified by name.

He added that pilots fly "visually" on the flights to the small Aegean islands that Olympic services.

Gelettathis also told lawmakers in parliament Friday morning that a "terrorist" act had been ruled out as a possible cause of the accident.





# Artillery duels erupt on Beirut 'green line'

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival forces battled with howitzers, mortars and tank cannons across Beirut's dividing green line. Police said two people were killed and seven wounded.

The shelling kept many from attending their Friday prayers.

The latest casualties raised the overall toll to 516 killed and 2,183 wounded in the 20-week confrontation between Michel Aoun's 20,000 troops and Syrian-backed Lebanese militiamen.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations, said the clash broke out between the Aoun-controlled district of "Ein Rummaneh and the adjacent Syrian-controlled neighbourhood of Shiyah early in the morning and went on until shortly before midday (0900 GMT).

"It could not be determined who provoked the clash," the spokesman said.

He said the clash started with an exchange of sniper fire then developed into a duel with artillery.

Shells crashed into apartment buildings on both sides of the green line, which has divided Beirut since the civil war broke out in April 1975.

The two fatalities, the police spokesman said, fell in the densely-populated slum of Shiyah, a stronghold for the Syrian-backed Amal militia.

Amal did not take part in the confrontation, the spokesman said.

Shell explosions echoed across Shiyah and residents rushed to underground bomb shelters as calls were blared from mosque minarets for the noon Friday prayers.

Mustafa Mokdad, a resident of Shiyah reached by telephone, said "very few" people went to mosques because of the shelling.

"Two mosques close to the green line cancelled prayers to avoid casualties among the believers," Mokdad added.

The police spokesman said the shelling of Shiyah did not reach the nearby slum of Bir Al Abed where followers of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God), attended the prayers at the main mosque.

Hizbollahis were to stage a demonstration across Bir Al Abed later to denounce the abduction by Israeli commandos of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid from

South Lebanon last Friday.

Guns fired in Shiyah fired their 130-mm Soviet-designed howitzers at the suburb of Kfarshima, southeast of Beirut, where Aoun's forces maintain some artillery batteries.

A spokesman for Aoun's command, speaking on condition of anonymity, said snipers maiming rooftop firing nests in Shiyah targeted his soldiers' positions in 'Ein Rummaneh.

"Our sharpshooters responded to the fire. They upgraded their fire power and we responded in kind," the spokesman said.

A spokesman for the mainstream Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia said Syrian soldiers "had to open fire at Aoun's army to protect Shiyah's citizens."

"Aoun's soldiers were shooting at everything that moved in Shiyah early in the morning. The Syrians fired back to silence the sources of fire," said the Amal spokesman who identified himself only by the code-name of Abu Ali.

The thuds of shell blasts resounded across the bomb-ravaged Lebanese capital forcing the few businesses that opened early in the morning to close.

"Now they're shelling Shiyah. It might develop and reach us," said Najib Masoud, a grocer in west Beirut's Zarif district.

The gray-haired Masoud lowered his shop's shutter quickly, carried a bag full of canned food, bread and a few bottles of drinking water and headed "to the shelter."

"They've started early today. I'll go to the underground shelter immediately. What a life. We are living under the ground like the dead. We might as well die," he murmured.

Only 200,000 people of Beirut's original 1.5 million population still live in the city, which has been the arena of ferocious shelling duels since the confrontation broke out March 8.

U.S. call

President George Bush has telephoned King Hassan of Morocco to urge him to continue efforts to bring peace to Leb-

non, the official Moroccan news agency MAP said Thursday.

King Hassan joined King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid in an Arab League committee which announced Monday that its efforts to halt 14 years of strife in Lebanon had failed.

The committee, set up by an Arab summit in May in Casablanca, was given six months to find ways of settling the conflict. But after two months of intensive contacts it said its efforts had reached a dead end.

A government source in Rabat told Reuters that Morocco considered the committee's mission was now terminated.

MAP said that during the telephone conversation Wednesday Bush and the king discussed events in the Middle East and particularly Lebanon.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Wednesday Washington had asked the Arab League committee not to abandon its efforts to end the Lebanese civil war.

"We urge the Arab League not to lay down its burden, despite the enormous difficulties it has encountered," Tutwiler told reporters.

"We are disappointed that the Arab League has not received the necessary cooperation from all parties to the conflict, both the Lebanese and Syrian, to end the immediate fighting, lift the blockades, and address the underlying political issues," she said.

She offered no suggestions as to how the league might revive its two-month-old peace mission.

The United States made a major effort in 1982 to try to bring peace to Lebanon but withdrew from direct involvement after U.S. marine headquarters in Beirut was bombed, killing 241 servicemen.

The latest confrontation broke out over a blockade imposed by Aoun on illegal ports run by Syrian-backed militias south of Beirut for denying the allied state treasury about \$100 million in lost customs dues annually.

The Syrians and allied forces retaliated by shelling and besieging the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave.

Aoun escalated the confrontation with the Syrians by declaring a "war of liberation" against their troops which are deployed in west Beirut and other parts of Lebanon.

## Egyptian police clash with strikers

HELWAN (AP) — A striker was killed when police stormed Egypt's largest metals company to break up a sit-down strike allegedly instigated by two of the company's board members, according to officials and newspapers.

Two policemen and 14 protesters were reported injured in the clash, and authorities took into custody more than 600 of the 3,000 workers sitting in Wednesday at the plant's exit gate.

The government-owned newspaper Al Akhbar said at least 81 workers probably would be charged with resisting arrest, blocking production and destruction of public property. It said another 596 workers were being questioned.

Daily Al Ahran, in its early Friday edition, said only 497 had been detained. It said that prosecutors ordered 82 workers to remain imprisoned for 15 days while 415 others had been questioned and released.

Security officials were unavailable for comment on the clash or the strike that prompted it, which strike leaders said was called to press demands for higher wages and improved working conditions.

There were conflicting versions on why the strike was called and how many workers were involved.

Al Akhbar said between 3,000-5,000 workers had participated in the sit-down strike.

But Diaa El Tantawi, board chairman of the Iron and Steel Complex at Helwan, said two agitators rallied about 60 employees, who then blocked the exit preventing about 3,000 workers from leaving at the end of Wednesday's morning shift.

"They used iron bars to stop the workers from leaving," Tantawi said Thursday. "This was not a question of wages or incentive payments."

He pointed to charred tyres that he said the workers had burned. Nearby, three trucks with flattened tyres and broken glass stood at the gate.

The board chairman estimated property damage at about 15,000 Egyptian pounds (\$5,800) and said the loss of a day's work cost the company 2 million pounds (\$800,000).

Work resumed at about half capacity Thursday as investigators toured the premises to assess damage.

There was no sign of unrest or of extra security at the grounds, but 10 vanloads of riot-police were posted at a police station about one kilometre away.

The sprawling Helwan complex, 30 kilometres south of Cairo, employs 24,600 workers.

Tantawi said it was a showpiece of Soviet aid to Egypt during the time of President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

"There definitely were political elements involved" in the strike, Tantawi said. He refused to characterise their motives except to rule out Muslim extremist fundamentalism, often at the centre of unrest in Egypt.

But strike leaders said the strike was for better pay and improved working conditions.

The two alleged strike leaders, who escaped arrest, were board members elected under a Nasser-era law that sets aside half the seats on the board of a public company for workers.

Newspapers reported that due to a bureaucratic error, Industry Minister Mohammed Abdul Wahab had suspended the men's board membership. It was unclear whether that played a part in the protest.

Previous strikes and sit-ins at other state-run industries allegedly involved members of leftist political parties and communists.

There was no sign of unrest or of extra security at the grounds,

## U.N. chief voices concern over fresh Afghan violence

TUNIS (AP) — Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, the main component of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), plans to open its general congress Thursday, with the purported killing of U.S. hostage William Higgins high on the agenda, a spokesman said.

Spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman said Wednesday it had not yet been decided whether to allow press coverage of the first Fatah congress in nine years. The meeting's date was not announced until the day before because of security concerns, he said.

About 1,000 delegates from inside and outside the Israeli-occupied territories are in Tunis to take part in the Congress, whose duration is not clear.

Abdul Rahman said the claim that Higgins was hanged in retaliation for the Israeli kidnapping of a Shi'ite Muslim cleric in southern Lebanon would be discussed as part of Fatah's consideration of the Lebanese question in general.

"Lebanon is very important for us, since half a million Palestinians live there," he said. The Fatah leadership has already condemned the murder of Higgins.

The spokesman said there are four main agenda items: — The report of the Fatah Central Committee on the uprising in the occupied territories. — A revision of the structure of Fatah and its statutes. — Elections Fatah Central Committee to replace the five members who have been assassinated or expelled since the last congress, held in Damascus in 1980.

— Elections to the Fatah Revolutionary Council, which operates under the Central Committee. Arafat, the PLO chairman, is also chairman of the committee.

Salah Khalaf, his deputy in Fatah, told reporters the election of five new members will bring a "welcome infusion of new blood" into the committee, most of whose members have held their posts since Fatah was created in Kuwait more than 25 years ago.

## SPLA seeks aid to fight epidemic



John Garing

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese rebels appealed Friday for international aid to fight an outbreak of disease they said was plaguing areas under their control.

The clandestine radio of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), monitored in Nairobi, said medicines were urgently needed for to control outbreaks in southern Sudan of meningitis, typhoid and kala-azar, a tropical disease which causes chronic fever, emaciation and anaemia.

It thanked Canada and the Netherlands for supplying SPLA-held areas with medicines recently but said this was not enough.

Peace talks

In another development, the rebels said Thursday they doubted peace talks between them and the government, set to open in Addis Ababa this week, would go ahead as planned.

"The first week of August is about to end and it is unlikely the talks will take place this week," said SPLA spokesman said Deng Alor Deng.

Sudan's military ruler, who toppled Prime Minister Sadeq al Mahdi's civilian government June 30, said last week a peace conference to try to end the country's six-year civil war would begin in the Ethiopian capital this week.

Deng gave no reason for the delay in staging the talks and there was no immediate comment from Sudan's embassy in Addis Ababa.

The SPLA, fighting since 1983 to end what it considers domination of the south by the north, has said Presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia have agreed to act as mediators.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Kurds claim capturing Iranian road

NICOSIA (AP) — The outlawed Kurdish Communist Party of Iran, Komala, claimed Thursday that it captured the main road linking the cities of Sanandaj and Sager in the northwestern Iranian province of Kordestan. In a statement telecast to the Associated Press in Nicosia from Norburg, Sweden, Komala claimed that it had captured 55 Iranian military personnel, including five officers. The statement said that Iranian forces were on the alert because they knew the Komala guerrillas, known as the Peshmargas, were in the area. The Peshmargas forces were only 150 metres away from an important military base, according to the statement. All 55 soldiers were released unharmed when the operation was completed and the control of the road relinquished, the statement said. This was the second time this week that the same road has been controlled by the Peshmargas for several hours, the statement claimed. The Kurds are in ethnic minority of some 20 million living in Turkey, Iran and Iraq and in some small enclaves of about 500,000 each in Syria and the Soviet Union. Iraqi, Iranian and Turkish Kurds are seeking autonomy from central governments.

### Japan offers to build Sahara reservoirs

TOKYO (R) — Japan, pondering how to use its mammoth trade surplus, will offer millions of dollars to build underground reservoirs in the Sahara desert, a trade ministry official said Friday. A study group has just returned from a trip to the desert to check possible sites, he said. The group explained the plan to the governments of Niger and Mali in West Africa, which are the best candidates for the project, he said. At the summit meeting of major industrial powers in Paris last month, Japan unveiled a \$2.3-billion, three-year plan to help developing countries protect their environment. "We still do not know if they (Niger and Mali) will welcome the project," he said. "They might want to get ODA (official development aid) in other forms, such as building factories, to help with their economies." Japan would build 10 reservoirs under the Sahara, each costing about nine billion yen (\$67 million), he said. "If they agree to the project, we can start the feasibility study in the next fiscal year and actual construction of the first reservoir a year after," he said. The feasibility study will take at least a year.

### Two on hunger strike die in Turkish jail

ANKARA (AP) — Two leftist inmates on a hunger strike died after a fight between prisoners and guards, authorities reported Thursday. Newspapers said the men were beaten to death but officials said they died of dehydration. The semi-official Anatolia news agency quoted the prosecutor of the western city of Aydin as saying a fight had broken out in the high-security Aydin prison Wednesday and two prison guards were injured. The prosecutor, Nural Ucarum, was quoted as saying the prisoners had attacked the guards when the guards insisted they strip for a medical examination. Ucarum said the two prisoners were not injured in the fight and that an autopsy showed they died of dehydration after refusing food for 35 days, the agency said. Turkish newspapers reported Thursday that the fight broke out when prison authorities refused to provide medical care for fasting inmates and the prisoners began a protest. Security forces beat the inmates with clubs and guns, killing two prisoners and injuring four others, according to newspaper reports. The newspapers did not say what kind of protest the prisoners staged. Ucarum also said that four fasting prisoners were hospitalised, but he said it was because of their worsening condition, Anatolia reported. He said 23 others were under medical care at the prison infirmary, according to the agency.

### Congressman asks halt to AID project

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. congressman asked that a \$34-million mapping project, financed in Egypt by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), be stopped because a criminal investigation file has been opened. Rep. Lamar Smith of Texas took an interest because a company in the city of San Antonio, Texas — Williams Stackhouse, Inc. — complained that the agency had not protected U.S. bidders, Jerry Lipson, a spokesman for the agency, said the congressman had been in touch with it about the case but that he had no further information. Smith said in a news statement that the mapping project is critical to nine other projects connected with a system for managing irrigation. That system will cost \$761 million over the next three to five years, he added. He said that every day's delay would save the U.S. taxpayer hundreds of thousands of dollars. According to Smith, a group acting on apparently illegal inside information was allowed to submit a bid two months after the deadline, with forms purportedly signed by the president of another company it meant to acquire. "The letter and the forms were false," he said. He went on to say that the inspector-general of the agency has informed him that a criminal investigation file had been opened in the case.

### Bourguiba marks birthday

TUNIS (AP) — Former President Habib Bourguiba marked his 84th birthday Thursday in the hospital where he underwent a prostate operation last month. There was no celebration of his birthday in Tunisia — where it was once a national holiday — and most Tunisian newspapers took no notice of the event. By coincidence, the day was public holiday in Tunisia because it was the Islamic new year. The weekly magazine Realites reported Thursday, without citing sources, that a second operation might have to be performed to clear his urinary tract, although some specialists believe his problem is caused by neurological rather than physical factors. Realites said the government authorised 27 members of Bourguiba's family to visit him in the hospital on the occasion of his birthday, including his son, former Foreign Minister Habib Bourguiba Jr. But Bourguiba attempted to include four former members of his government in the list of his birthday guests, it said. Realites said "these persons were not authorised to visit him." Bourguiba was ousted in a bloodless coup in 1987 by his prime minister, Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, who said the president was senile and unable to carry on his duties.

## Defecting Mujahedeen celebrate in Afghan town

By Edith M. Lederer  
The Associated Press

TAGHAJ TIMUR, Afghanistan — Afghan soldiers and some 700 guerrillas going over to the government side celebrated Thursday with hugs and kisses, the slaughter of sheep and a feast in this dusty town in western Afghanistan.

The guerrillas' decision to join the government marked a gain for President Najibullah's programme of national reconciliation to try to end the 10-year-old civil war.

But amid the festivities there was a noisy reminder that the war by U.S.-backed guerrillas against the Soviet-backed government goes on. A rocket exploded behind a clump of trees about 500 metres from the crowd, sending up a cloud of brown smoke just as the official ceremony started.

A few government soldiers disappeared, but the speeches went on and the former guerrilla supporters of the fundamentalist Harkat-e-En-

quelab-e-Islami group, led by Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, were welcomed into the government fold.

The Harkat guerrillas, led by his father Ibrahim Beg, already had an informal ceasefire with the government, and had not fought against Afghan forces for three years. So the official reconciliation was one of warm embraces and good food, rocket or no rocket.

Beg, sitting cross-legged on a carpet in the mosque of this tiny town in Ghown province, about 400 kilometres west of Kabul, said he had lost "a few" men in fighting against the government.

But he said he had lost between 200 and 250 fighters in clashes with rival guerrilla groups, mainly Jamiat and Hezb-e-Islami, led by hardline fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Beg said his supporters, including about 900 armed fighters, had decided to join the government following the withdrawal of the last Soviet troops

on Feb. 15. "First, we face shortages of food. Then, we don't have enough weapons to fight with other groups, so with the cooperation of the government, we will fight against those who do not believe in national reconciliation," he said.

The guerrillas, some unarmed but about half wearing rifles, lined up with their heavy weapons including a rocket-propelled grenade and two anti-aircraft guns.

Under the agreement with the government, they keep their weapons and will be given additional ones. The town itself received 10 tonnes of flour, and the promise of more.

Afghan government forces are headquartered in the provincial capital of Chaghcharan, about 40 kilometres away, where a Soviet infantry battalion was based until the pullout.

But Hayat Ullah said no government troops had been in Taghaj Timur until about four days ago, when the guerrillas

announced they were ready to join the government.

Ghown is one of the poorest provinces in Afghanistan, with few valleys sprinkled among barren hills, and a population of 250,000, surviving mainly on raising sheep, cattle and wheat.

Travel to the area from Kabul is by a bumpy, packed-sand path from Chaghcharan. Several villagers said the Western journalists on hand for the reconciliation were the first Westerners they had seen.

On the way into town, locals in colourful turbans and baggy pants were slaughtering sheep, traditional at times of festivity. Ranking army officers and provincial officials walked down a line of waiting guerrillas, giving hugs and some kisses.

There were prayers by a mullah and a speech by a representative of Najibullah called Aslam, who said the guerrillas' action was a step towards stopping bloodshed in the country.

At a lunch of roasted sheep, rice, flat man bread and plain yoghurt, some of Beg's follow-

ers asked the journalists why the Americans were supplying weapons to the guerrillas.

"If the United States, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia stop military assistance, the war will finish in a few days," said Aji Mohammad Yaqub, who said he had lost about 30 friends and relatives in the war.

A deputy minister in the ministry of state security, who identified himself as Lt. Gen. Jalal, said that in the last month 5,000 armed guerrillas and 10,000 of their unarmed supporters have joined the government.

He estimated there are more than 200,000 guerrillas, who call themselves Mujahedeen, in Afghanistan. But he said about 70 per cent are not fighting at the present time.

The estimate of guerrilla strength was in line with one by Peter Tomson, a special U.S. envoy to the Mujahedeen. But Tomson has predicted that the resistance will prevail and Najibullah's government will fall.

Electric Power 63/61  
RJ Flight Information 06-32200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-32200

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Elmeh Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6424816  
Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn 6424812  
Jahel Amman Maternity 642502  
Palestine, Shamsi 6461404  
Shamsi Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Mushter Hospital 6672219  
The Islamic, Amn 6661215/17  
Al-Ahli, Amn 6641646  
Rafan, Al-Mulajiza 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Amn 77511/26  
Army, Marja 89161/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050  
Amal Hospital 674133  
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071  
Jbn Sina Hospital (09)98732  
IBRD: Princess Basma Hospital (02)225535  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)227275  
Jbn Al Nafies Hospital (02)47100  
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06)32200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
18:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
18:30 Amman, Damascus (RJ)  
18:30 Athens, New York (RJ)  
18:30 New Delhi (RJ)  
18:30 Cairo (RJ)  
18:30 Dhahran (RJ)  
18:30 Kuwait (RJ)  
18:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
18:30 Colombo (RJ)  
18:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)  
18:30 Baghdad (RJ)  
18:30 New York, Montreal (RJ)  
17:20 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)  
17:45 Cairo (RJ)  
17:45 Athens (RJ)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:00 Amman (RJ)  
06:00 Athens (RJ)  
06:00 New York (RJ)  
06:00 Baghdad (RJ)  
06:00 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
06:00 London (RJ)  
06:00 Paris (RJ)  
06:00 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)  
06:00 Cairo (RJ)  
06:00 Dhahran (RJ)  
06:00 Kuwait (RJ)  
06:00 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
06:00 Colombo (RJ)  
06:00 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)  
06:00 Baghdad (RJ)  
06:00 New York, Montreal (RJ)  
06:00 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)  
06:00 Cairo (RJ)  
06:00 Athens (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:30 Baghdad (IA)  
13:30 Cairo (MS)  
14:30 Kuwait (KU)  
15:45 Tripoli (LN)  
17:25 Riyadh (SV)  
17:25 Rome (AZ)  
17:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Apple (golden) 300 / 400  
Apple (red) 300 / 250  
Apple (pink) 280 / 240  
Apple (red) 550 / 500  
Banana 400 / 350  
Banana (Mekong) 350 / 300  
Banana 500 / 400  
Cabbage 100 / 50  
Carrots 200 / 180  
Cauliflower 200 / 140  
Onion 150 / 120  
Cucumber (large) 300 / 250  
Cucumber (small) 400 / 350  
Eggplant 150 / 100  
Garlic 1100 / 1000  
Grapes 200 / 180  
Grapes (red) 200 / 180  
Lemon (yellow) 400 / 350  
Lemon (green) 350 / 300  
Marrow (large) 300 / 250  
Marrow (small) 500 / 450  
Okra 500 / 400  
Cabbage 400 / 350  
Cauliflower 150 / 120  
Peas 550 / 500  
Pepper (hot) 160 / 120  
Pepper (sweet) 160 / 120  
Potatoes 200 / 220  
Tomatoes 100 / 80

# JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

21:02 ..... 'Isba

## CHURCHES

### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
15:50	Educational programme
16:00	News summary
16:05	Message from Iraq
16:10	A play by Shakespeare
16:15	Local programme
16:20	Programme review
16:25	News in Arabic
16:30	Arabic series
16:35	Programme review
16:40	Constructive's Guide
16:45	Local programme
16:50	News in Arabic

### PROGRAMME TWO

16:50	Contests
16:55	News in French
17:00	Arabic series
17:05	Arabic series
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## Jordan celebrates Islamic New Year

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan along with the rest of the Islamic World Thursday celebrated the Islamic New Year (Hijra year) by holding religious prayers and ceremonies in mosques around the Kingdom.

The Royal Court received cables of congratulations on the occasion from the heads of private and public organisations in the Kingdom and from heads of Arab, Islamic and friendly nations.

All government departments and public institutions in Jordan remained closed Thursday to mark the occasion.

## No to dinar for RJ inflight sales

By Ghadeer Taher  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Imagine you're flying Bangladesh's national carrier and want to buy duty-free perfume aboard the plane; the stewardess politely gives you the price in Japanese yen. Definitely it would be a shock, particularly when you are told the Bangladeshi taka is not accepted aboard the plane.

This scenario is not so far-fetched. It is actually happening on Royal Jordanian's (RJ) international flights, except they are selling in dollars and not in yen.

An internal memorandum has been released, according to an RJ official who chose to remain anonymous, instructing that all duty-free sales aboard the RJ fleet be conducted in American dollars, shifting the past RJ policy of accepting Jordanian as well as foreign currency aboard its flights.

"We were selling items at the government rate of 560 fils for the dollar but these are extras, and do not have to be subsidised by the government," according to RJ Vice-President of Finance and Investment Omar Zokash.

Another reason for this policy change was that "since there was a great difference between black market and official rates for the dinar before July 12 (when the RJ decision took effect) it was attractive for some of the flight cabin crew (stewards and stewardesses) to deal in the black market," Zokash said. "So this policy had to be introduced to control finances."

A stewardess interviewed at the airport indicated that dealing in the black market was very common among many RJ cabin attendants involved in duty-free sales. "Many times, especially from foreigners, we get foreign currency for duty-free items. Many stewardesses do not give the cashier the foreign currency but give him the equivalent in Jordanian dinars at the official rate," she said. "Then they exchange the foreign currency for dinars in the black market for a much higher rate."

Since RJ buys duty-free items in dollars and since the dinar is fluctuating, Abdullah Sharif of RJ's press section explains, "we cannot sell in dinars." Both Zokash and Sharif said that once the dinar stabilises the airline will go back to accepting dinars for inflight sales.

"I do not believe that the market has stabilised even after the July 31 decision," Zokash said in an interview with the Jordan Times. "When the dinar settles around 800 fils to the dollar we will go back to using the dinar on our flights," he said.

The "July 31 decision" refers to the Central Bank of Jordan's (CBI) move to allow a two-tier exchange rate system in Jordan, allowing banks to trade at free market rates for financing non-essential goods and freeing them to sell hard currency at rates dictated by market forces. At the same time, the banks have to observe a fixed official rate for public sector imports of basic foods, some medicines and fees of Jordanian students abroad.

### Passenger reaction

Although the reasons were numerous, many Jordanian passengers interviewed by the Jordan Times at the arrival terminal of Queen Alia International Airport were obviously upset by the RJ switch to the dollar.

"Imagine that our national carrier does not take our national currency. How does this affect our confidence in the economy?" one angry passenger asked.

"I understand that we need hard currency. But, in principle it is outrageous not to accept the dinar on a Jordanian carrier," Mohammad Salem said. "Personally I was offended, and I refused to buy any items."

A steward who refused to be identified said: "Everyone is laughing at us and we are constantly harassed. I think this (policy of dollars only) has to be reassessed. Maybe this rule can be applied to non-Jordanians but it shouldn't be applied to our nationals."

A disgruntled woman said: "When I went to the bank for dollars, they hardly gave me anything. Now the airline expects me to have extra to buy duty-free items."

The RJ switch to dollars has not been applied to its duty-free shop at the airport. Munzir Amrah, who is in charge of the ground duty-free shop, said a rate of 720 fils to the dollar was being applied Wednesday at the shop.

## Housing Bank to raise bonus amount for customers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Bank Friday announced that it will increase the amount of the bonus it is offering its customers on all their deposits to JD 720,000 annually.

A bank statement said that the move which is designed to encourage members of the public to increase their savings will help also expand the bank's operations to provide services to all public sectors.

According to the statement the bonus will be distributed through a total of 43,260 prizes to be selected as a result of three drawings of lots instead of two drawings as was previously done and that the grand prize or bonus will be raised to JD 25,000 from JD 20,000.

The bank has also monthly drawings and according to the statement the grand monthly prize will go up to JD 10,000 from JD 7,500 and that the number of prizes will rise to 3,605, up from 2,025 prizes.

According to the statement also the total number of people who won prizes from the Housing Bank since 1977 was 140,448 and that they received a total of JD 3.3 million.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- An exhibition of cartoons by the late Jordanian artist Rahab Saghayyar at the Plastic Artists Association, Ghameidan.
- A photo exhibition entitled "Bedouins Today" by Japanese photographer Koji Sato at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### THEATRE

- An Arabic play entitled "Thamamul Thail" (Price of a Shadow) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

### POETRY RECITAL

- Poetry recital by Arab Poet Mahmud Al Tai at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.



## Princess Zein weds

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein was Thursday wedded to Mr. Majdi Anwar Al Saleh at a ceremony attended by His Majesty King Hussein and members of the royal family.

An official statement by the Royal Court said that the Princess was wedded to Mr. Saleh Thursday Aug. 3, 1989 at a ceremony in the presence of princes and princesses and members of the royal family.

It was also attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, chief of the Royal Court Thourqan Hindawi, Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mhailan, Mr. Anwar Farid Al Saleh and other guests and members of the Saleh family.

Mr. Saleh and Princess Zein were engaged last March at a ceremony also attended by His Majesty King Hussein and royal family members as well as members of the Saleh family.

King Hussein and the guests congratulated the newly weds wishing them an enjoyable and happy life.



## World Islamic Council to discuss report on occupied lands, Jerusalem

AMMAN (Petra) — A detailed report on the situation in the occupied Arab territories in general and in the Holy City of Jerusalem and the Al Aqsa Mosque in particular will be at the top of an agenda for the World Islamic Council's relief and Daawa meeting which opened in Amman Friday.

Dr. Izzat Jaradat, director of the Bait Al Maqdes Bureau who is taking part in the two-day meeting, said that the general condition of Islamic holy places in the occupied lands, Israel's practices designed to obliterate Islamic character in Palestine and continued Israeli acts of sacrilege in the holy shrines, as well as inhuman treatment of the Palestinian people will be discussed by the delegates who represent various Islamic organisations in the Arab World.

Jaradat said that reports by the sub-committees on financial, educational, relief and informational activities for Islamic countries will be discussed by the participants who are meeting in a regular session.

Among the other topics, Jaradat said, is an informational seminar which the council will organise in Baghdad towards the end of 1989 and another on Jerusalem which will be organised in Amman during the Israa Wal Mi'raj feast.

He said that the condition of Muslims in non-Islamic countries and means of handling their problems will be tackled at the meeting.

Marshal Abdul Rahman Swarddahab, former head of the military junta in Sudan and former Awqaf Minister Kamel Sharif are among the dignitaries attending the meeting.

## Jordan and Iraq sign cooperation programme

BAGHDAD — Jordan and Iraq have signed a programme for cooperation in cultural, scientific and technical fields in the coming three years.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported from Baghdad that the agreement which was signed by Iraqi Minister of Higher Education Muthan Ibrahim and Jordanian Minister of Education Abdullah Nsour cover three areas of cooperation: Higher education, scientific research and general education, including culture and archaeology.

The agency said that the two sides agreed to grant scholarships to nationals from both country for post-graduate studies and to exchange visits by professors and teachers.

The two sides also agreed to exchange publications and books and hold seminars and conferences dealing with scientific subjects.

They agreed to launch joint work in culture, general education and archaeological affairs and to organise training courses in information, culture and archaeological fields.



Abdullah Nsour

## NHF to hold 2 workshops on new trends in curricula development

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two workshops on new trends in curricula development and instructions in chemistry and biology will be opened here by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) next week in the course of preparations for the opening of the Jubilee School in 1991.

An NHF statement said that a total of 30 participants from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, the Higher Council for Science and Technology, the Armed Forces Education Department, private schools in Jordan and schools operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) will take part in the workshops which are expected to last six days each.

The participants, according to the statement, will try to come up with new methods to improve teaching chemistry and biology in the tenth class giving special attention to self-education and developing the students' own

skills.

The two workshops which are being organised in cooperation with the British Council and Moray House College of Education in Edinburgh, Scotland, are aimed at paving the way for the opening of the Jubilee School to serve as a model secondary school for gifted students. It is being established by the NHF in honour of His Majesty King Hussein's deep commitment to education and in recognition of the great strides in education achieved in the Kingdom under his rule.

The chemistry workshop, the statement explained, will seek to lay down a working programme for the development of the chemistry curriculum for the projected school as a follow-up to work begun here at a similar workshop held in Amman last April.

It said that the workshop aims to orient the educators on new trends in biology teaching and help them create new methods

and lay down new curricula for biology students at the secondary level.

The Jubilee School will provide outstanding students from Jordan and the Arab World with the highest quality of education; and as a laboratory school, it will contribute to the development of education throughout the region, according to NHF.

The Jubilee School is expected to provide instruction and activities aimed at encouraging self reliance, high motivation, personal responsibility, skills of investigation, problem solving, creativity and independent thinking, according to NHF.

NHF last year awarded two consultancy firms a contract to prepare designs and drawings for the construction work and supervise the preparation of tender specifications for the Jubilee School to be set up near Jubeiha, north west of Amman.

The school is to be built on 120 dunams of land.

## Bdour leaves for Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Jamal Bdour left Friday for Baghdad to take part in a meeting by ministers of labour from the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries which is due to open Saturday.

In a pre-departure statement, Bdour said that the ministers from Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yemen will discuss subjects that contribute towards further cooperation among the four states in labour and employment affairs.

The meeting is in harmony with a general strategy drawn up by the heads of the four countries at their latest summit meeting in Alexandria, the minister noted.

He said that cooperation in labour affairs is bound to help the ACC countries to achieve integration and further progress.

Bdour stated before going to Baghdad that his ministry was doing all it can to help the country overcome the problem of unemployment in various sectors, and praised the labour movement in Jordan for helping to reduce



Jamal Bdour

the unemployment crisis.

The Jordanian government took a decision a month ago to provide additional financial assistance to the Federation of Labour Unions in the Kingdom in a bid to boost its contribution towards stimulating the national economy, the minister said at a meeting with members of the federation's executive board.

Bdour commended the role of the Jordanian labour movement and said that the Ministry of Labour will increase its cooperation with the unions to increase production and bolster the economy.

There should also be a stepped up cooperation between the unions, the labourers and the employers in the course of the national struggle for construction and a better economy, the minister noted.

Bdour pointed to social activities carried out by the labour

unions in Jordan, such as the establishment of consumer cooperatives and the creation of labourers' funds for financing education, and said these are very constructive steps to bolster the unions' stand and improve the condition of labourers' families.

Samir Qarden, the federation's secretary general, paid tribute to the close cooperation between the federation and the ministry and said that continued coordination at all levels is bound to provide good service to the workers and contribute to socio-economic development.

Referring to the local labour market, Qarden said that it should be organised in such a way that all the time priority must be given to the local workers so that the problem of unemployment can be solved.

To achieve this, he said, the federation and the ministry will cooperate in vocational training courses for local workers who should be able to substitute the foreign labourers in the country.

Cooperation with the ACC countries and giving priority to their workers in Jordan on reciprocal basis should also be given very serious consideration in all labour related affairs, Qarden noted.

Qarden also called on the government to link the education policy in Jordan with the needs of the local labour market with particular stress on areas related to construction and production.

The meeting was attended by directors of the Ministry of Labour's departments and heads of labour unions in Jordan.

## PHOTO EXHIBITION entitled

"BEDOUINS TODAY"

Showing the desert life of Bedouin photographed by

Mr. Koji Sato

(Japanese photographer, a JOCV member)

August 5 to August 10, 1989

at the Exhibition Hall of the Royal Cultural Centre

مكتبة الأمل



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1973

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## Summit for Lebanon

THE CALL for an extraordinary Arab summit to continue dealing with the Lebanese crisis is sound on two grounds: First, collective efforts by the Arab leaders within the framework of the Arab League offer the only viable and operational hope to resolve Lebanon's dilemma; second, the Arab Higher Committee charged by the Casablanca Arab summit to settle the situation in Lebanon has declared its failure thus far to successfully carry out its mandate, and has offered to submit its detailed report to the Arab leaders. Accordingly, there is an urgent need to convene an extraordinary summit to review the report of the Higher Committee and make the necessary recommendations on the basis of the findings of the committee. It follows also, that any Arab summit may not be held before the report of the Higher Committee is finalised and made ready for scrutiny.

In this vein, frankness and boldness must characterise all follow-up Arab action. At the same time, determined endeavours must be made to achieve candid Arab diplomacy in Lebanon without needless confrontation. Of course this is a big order and is easier said than done. Nevertheless as long as calmness, reason and sincerity dominate inter-Arab diplomacy, it could still be possible to concurrently attain bluntness and non-confrontational approaches to Lebanon's tragedy. It goes without saying that confrontation per se is self-defeating as it is a sure prescription for the perpetuation of the carnage and destruction in Lebanon.

Similarly it would be prudent to convene a mini-Arab summit, in preparation for the suggested extraordinary summit, to be confined to the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Algeria, Syria and Iraq. Such a preliminary mini-summit should also be attended by the leaders of the two governments of Lebanon, General Aoun and Salim Al Hoss. It is also proposed in this context, that such a mini-summit be held in Saudi Arabia and its duration be ad infinitum until agreement is reached between the principal actors in the Lebanese catastrophe. The first draft resolution before the mini-summit should therefore be not to adjourn until a final agreement is reached. The Arab World owes it to the Lebanese people to do just that after so many years of incomplete attempts to put an end to the death and destruction there.



Zaki - Al Rai

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai's Arabic daily on Friday tackled the ongoing Israeli media campaigns directed against Jordan and said that the Jordanian press and information media were instrumental in countering such campaigns. The paper said that the Israeli media brought up ridiculous topics claiming that the Jordanian media were working against peace in the Middle East and dwelling on economic subjects designed to shake the people's confidence in the dinar. The Jordanian media realised and countered such moves and also all attempts to cause a split within the Jordanian-Palestinian ranks and to undermine the just struggle of the Palestinian people, the paper added. It said that no falsehood and no lies can change Jordan's position or force the Kingdom to take another course that would undermine its own credibility worldwide. It is natural for the Israeli enemy to pour its rage and anger on Jordan and all its institutions including the media because Jordan and all its institutions are working hard to expose the misleading and false claims of the Zionist enemy, the paper said.

Al Dustour daily commented on the fast moving developments in the Middle East arena giving special attention to the hostage crisis in Lebanon. The paper said that the escalation of tension has been brought about by Israel's terrorist actions and its kidnapping of the Muslim leader from South Lebanon. After the abduction of Sheikh Obeid, Israel started blackmailing the Lebanese group like any gang of murderers and criminals who are normally bent on kidnapping people for any cause, the paper noted. It said that the Obeid affair has returned the whole Middle East region to a vicious circle of violence and counter-violence, and extremist action that can only benefit the Israeli occupiers of Arab land in Palestine and Lebanon. What Israel has been bent on doing ever since its establishment in the midst of the Arab region is causing turmoil in the Arab World on a constant basis and diverting world public attention from the situation in the occupied Arab lands, the paper continued. It said that the United States is urgently required to put an end to Israel's meddling with the security and stability of the region.

Sawt Al Shaab daily also dwelt on the Obeid affair and said that the absence of justice and peace in the Middle East will continue to haunt the world which is unable to put an end to Israel's atrocities. The international community is no doubt aware of the fact that it is Israel which is fighting peace and it is Israel that is behind the escalation of tension in our region, the paper added. We are certain that real and genuine pressure from Washington on its Israeli ally would stop such actions and evil practices; and good intentions on the part of the United States would lead to the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 to pave the way for stability and peace, said the paper. It expressed apprehension that Israel's continued intransigence and evil practices would trigger an all out war in the whole region.

## American Jewish organisation for U.S.-PLO dialogue

By Henry Siegman

THE PURPOSE of the so-called Helms Amendment was not to prevent U.S. contacts with PLO terrorists who killed Americans. The American Jewish Congress did not oppose legislation that would achieve that purpose; to the contrary, it promoted such legislation. And, finally, the AJC and Aipac were not in conflict over this issue.

I begin this essay with these simple statements of fact because I have learned during my current stay in this country that many Israelis believe the very opposite about each of the above. They are under the impression that all Senator Helms sought to do was to end American contacts with Salah Khalaf; that the American Jewish Congress and other Jewish organisations were opposed to this goal; and, finally, that Aipac and the AJC were at odds over this issue.

The amendment introduced by Senator Jesse Helms contained sweeping language that would have prevented U.S. contacts with anyone in the leadership of the PLO, not only with the likes of Salah Khalaf. It would have required President Bush to certify that people in the PLO with whom the United States is in contact were never involved — directly or indirectly — in terrorist actions against American citizens. Clearly, it would have been impossible for the president to offer that kind of negative certification about any member of the PLO.

In other words, the amendment's real purpose was to put a complete end to the U.S. dialogue with the PLO that was first initiated last November by Secretary Shultz.

Now, no one in the United States — and least of all Amer-

ican Jews — is enamoured of the PLO. However, they attach great hope — indeed, at this point, perhaps their only hope — to Prime Minister Shamir's proposal for elections in the West Bank and Gaza. If the Palestinians were to agree to such elections, they could initiate a process that would end the current violence and, in stages, lead to a negotiated settlement between Israel and the Palestinians and with the rest of the Arab World. On the other hand, if the elections idea is aborted, there is only the prospect of increased violence and greater tragedy for both Israelis and Palestinians.

For most Americans, the prime minister's elections proposal and U.S. contacts with the PLO are logically and inextricably linked, since it is simply inconceivable that the PLO would allow the elections to take place if the U.S. were to end its dialogue with them. Despite the insistence by some Israelis to the contrary, it is clear to everyone that no Palestinian elections will take place in the territories if the PLO opposes them.

That is why the American Jewish Congress, as well as several other American Jewish organisations, including the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the American Jewish Committee, opposed the Helms Amendment, for it would have effectively killed what hope there is for Prime Minister Shamir's initiative.

Instead, the AJC and these other organisations supported legislation that would end discussions with PLO officials like Salah Khalaf who were operationally involved in terrorism against Americans, without however breaking off the U.S. dialogue with the PLO entirely. That is the position that in fact

prevailed in the U.S. Senate, with only Senator Helms voting against it.

I believe that for most American Jews an important distinction exists between U.S. contacts with the PLO and Israeli contacts with the PLO. Despite the fact that the Likud faction of the Israeli government vigorously opposed Secretary Shultz's decision to initiate the contact in November 1988, the organised Jewish community, acting through the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, refused to support the Israeli position.

Nevertheless, American Jews understand and support the Israeli decision not to establish any Israeli contacts with the PLO. They will remain sympathetic to that position until the PLO will have given much more convincing evidence than they have to date that they have really abandoned terrorism in favour of diplomacy.

In the meantime, most American Jews support the U.S. position that a case can be made for maintaining low-level U.S. contacts with the PLO if these contacts yield greater PLO moderation. The test of that moderation, in addition to an end to PLO-sponsored terrorism, is PLO willingness to allow Palestinian elections proposed by Prime Minister Shamir to go forward.

Now that the Israeli cabinet has reaffirmed its commitment to the elections proposal without the destructive encumbrances adopted by the Likud's Central Committee, a moment of truth for the Palestinians has arrived. It may turn out that the PLO has no intention of allowing elections in the territories, either because it fears the likely independence of a new Palestinian leadership that, unlike the PLO, enjoys the legi-

timacy conferred by free elections, or because of the PLO — as some insist — remains unconstructed in its commitment to violence. Whatever the reason, should that turn out to be the case, the U.S. must at that point end its dialogue with the PLO.

But there will be time enough to do so; to end it prematurely is to risk a misreading of the PLO's real intentions and therefore miss an important opportunity for a breakthrough in the peace process. It is also to risk the accusation that Israel prevailed on the U.S. to end its contacts with the PLO because it was Israel that did not want its elections proposal put to the test.

It is understandable that a beleaguered Israel will accept support from whatever source. Still, it is important for Israelis to understand that the support of Senator Jesse Helms is not an unmixed blessing.

Jesse Helms is one of the most reactionary — if not the most reactionary — members of the U.S. Senate. He is opposed to virtually every one of the causes valued and supported by most American Jews. He has an appalling record on issues such as human rights, civil rights, civil liberties, religious freedom and the separation of Church and State, and support for the poor and the needy. Dictatorial and right-wing regimes all over the world, from South Africa to Pinochet's Chile, know that they will get their most sympathetic hearing in the U.S. from Jesse Helms. Until quite recently, he was singularly hostile towards Israel. He has undergone a sudden conversion on the subject, and is now to the right of Ariel Sharon.

Suffice it to say, most Americans — not to speak of American Jews — do not look to Jesse

Helms to instruct them on what is good for America. They certainly do not look to him for instruction on what is good for Israel.

It should also be understood that a crude attempt to curtail presidential prerogatives, perceived — rightly or wrongly — to have been engineered by Israel, that uses the Senate's most reactionary personality as its instrument, is bound to cause deep resentment in the executive branch. As reported in *The New York Times*, President Bush felt that "the Helms Amendment unconstitutionally usurped his power to conduct the foreign relations of the United States."

For Israel to be perceived as injecting itself into that kind of an internal constitutional conflict between the president and the Congress is unwise, at best.

Finally, a word about Aipac's role in the American Jewish community and on the Washington scene. Contrary to a widely-held belief, Aipac is not a lobby for the government of Israel. That assertion may startle many Israelis, but Aipac is the fist to reject categorically that description of itself. Aipac is an American organisation, representing and speaking for the American Jewish community and the larger American pro-Israel community.

In taking positions before the U.S. Congress, it must therefore make certain that these positions accurately reflect the consensus of that constituency. Aipac does not — and should not — act on the instructions of the Israeli government.

It is therefore entirely misleading to suggest that Aipac can take one position before the U.S. Congress, representing the views of the Israeli government, while the American Jewish Congress and other Jewish organisations take a different position. If the

views of Aipac and the consensus of the American Jewish community diverge on a particular issue, then Aipac has no brief to speak to the U.S. Congress on that issue.

The above is by way of general principles. In the particular case of the Helms amendment, Aipac assured American Jewish organisations that it would support an alternative amendment, that would not require negative presidential certification, and is therefore less of a challenge to presidential prerogatives.

Thus, Aipac and the AJC acted in concert, and the notion that the AJC divided the Jewish community simply has no basis in fact. To the contrary: since the Jewish community agreed not to seek an end to the U.S. dialogue with the PLO, it is unilateral initiatives to end the dialogue that are divisive.

What unites the American Jewish community at this particularly difficult moment in the life of the Jewish state is its support for Prime Minister Shamir's peace initiative — specifically, his proposal for Palestinian elections in the territories. Actions that deflect attention from that important initiative, or that bring its integrity into question — whether of the kind taken by the Likud's Central Committee, or the so-called campaigns to compel the U.S. administration to end its contacts with the PLO — can only rupture that unity. They also threaten serious damage to Israel's standing in the U.S. and to the hopes for peace in the region.

The ball is now in the Palestinian court, and that is where it should remain.

The writer is executive director of the American Jewish Congress, and the article is reprinted from the *Jerusalem Post*.

## Interview with Ibrahim Abu Lughod

### 'Intifada essential to Palestinian struggle'

By Sophia Ghachem

Professor Ibrahim Abu Lughod is the American representative to the Palestine National Congress.

Here, Professor Abu Lughod shares with us some of his views on the Palestine issue.

Q. Who is most profoundly influenced by the "intifada"?

A. The intifada is affecting, fundamentally, certain sectors of Israel's public. Those who are affected positively by the intifada are not in a position of power. And they are not likely to be in a position of power very soon. They are to be found across the political spectrum of Israel as individuals. They are members of splinter parties, outside of the Labour and Likud party. They are representative of both the older and younger generations. There are even many Oriental Jews among them. Unfortunately, Labour's position has remained the same. They are responsible for Israeli colonialism and the architecture of the West Bank. There is no "territories for peace." The Palestinians are an obstacle. They have to be removed, in the minds of Israelis.

Q. What specifically should the United States do in order to show that it is committed to securing peace in the occupied territories?

A. The United States has to do three things:

(1) It has to demonstrate its commitment to its own principles by implementing its own legislation on governments that violate human rights. The reports that the State Department issued about human rights in the occupied area say that Israel is guilty of systematic violation of Palestinian human rights. U.S. legislation says that countries that are guilty of systematically violating human rights will not get U.S. assistance.

(2) The United States cannot play a positive role in this until it declares that it supports the Palestinian right to self-determination.

(3) The U.S. must say that as long as Israel continues to occupy this land of this people whose right to self-determination it supports, it is going to take measures against Israel in the United Nations and in the International Court.

If President Bush says that he wants to receive Mr. Arafat in Washington that will be a very important step taken, and the Israelis can do nothing about it. That's why I don't believe, personally, that up to now the United States is interested in taking effective measures to bring about peace. The United States has an important role to play in this not only in acting on behalf of the Palestinians, but in upholding its own principles.

Q. In your opinion, what will be the decisive factor in securing a favourable peace settlement?

A. What is important, I think, in pushing the Israelis eventually to seek peace is the cost, in material and cultural terms, which the intifada is inflicting on Israel. Unless it continues to be compensated by the United States for these costs, the Likud is bound to seek an agreement with the Palestinians. This is why it is very important for the United States government to take a position that supports a settlement on the basis of Palestinian rights. If the United States does not take that position, the Likud is not going to change its policy. Israel will not accept a change because the cost can be alleviated.

Q. The "intifada" appears to have been the most fruitful of all Palestinian efforts to date. Will it be persuasive enough to push the Israelis to seek peace before the situation worsens dramatically?

A. What is clear from the intifada is that Israel cannot win even though it has more power. It cannot win because, in the end, all colonial powers lose. And Israel is not an exception. In order for Israel to continue to be in this area it will have to mobilise 100,000 soldiers on a permanent basis. It has to sacrifice all its standing in the world, which in the U.S. and in some European countries, is being eroded. Its

whole society is being fractured by the intifada. If it makes peace with the Palestinians, it has everything to gain. This is exactly what the British discovered in their relationship with India. That is, the gain of one could be the gain of both. You see, militarily the intifada cannot win. You can't win if you are colonised by military means. But you can win if you demonstrate that you don't accept the exploitation. You create an alternative order which becomes de facto independent. If you don't benefit from your presence in that area, why should you stay? And I think this is the genius of the intifada. In that sense, I think the intifada style and value is a fundamental transformation in the act of self-defence against Israel. And therefore if Israel is an intelligent power, which it is, it will come to seek a solution before the situation becomes intolerable. But I think they will need more of a stimulus.

Q. From the standpoint of eliciting international sympathy and assistance, it is significant that Palestinians are residing throughout the world. But what would be the relationship of a Palestinian like yourself, a United States citizen, to the prospective new state?

A. This is an issue that we have to resolve. That's what Palestinian nationalism is. We struggle not only for the position of a land, we struggle to fulfill ourselves as a people. We can't do that as long as we are occupied and exiled. When we are free, then we are free to construct a new society for ourselves, which will be for all Palestinians. Well, alright, if it's all, then how do I contribute to it? How does it absorb me? Where do I go? What rights do I have?

Q. The Palestinian struggle has also been one of restoring their credibility. How do you think the Palestinians can best express their intention to pursue peace?

A. We want to struggle peacefully with Israel because we believe that Palestine is one country. The future is not made of the difficult past. The past informs it. It is our responsibility to construct a new future because I don't want to condemn my children to live in conflict anymore than the Jews want to. They say they wanted a haven from the holocaust. So they come to a place where they condemn their children to fight? It's a contradiction.

Q. How do you feel about the heated debate, both in Israel and in the United States, over whether or not to recognise the PLO as a legitimate peace-making force?

A. It isn't realistic. Look at married people. They fight, but they learn how to cope. You transform issues that divide us

into problems and you try to resolve them. And once you resolve them you are not in a utopia. We have to be able to cope with these issues without destroying each other, without distorting each other's culture, without using stereotypes against each other.

Q. What are your views on the future relationship between Jordan and the "occupied territories"?

A. My own feeling is that the Palestinian movement has been since 1982, in particular, explicit. It always has an important resolution on the relationship with Jordan. Because there are many Palestinians in Jordan, we say that we have a special relationship. It may be that, once we are satisfied with the relationship of our national identity as Palestinians, one could be Palestinian and Jordanian, just as I am an American national. I don't see any conflict between my being Palestinian and my being American, and it would be easier because, after all, we are Arabs. But we can't resolve that issue until we resolve our own issue, that is, the restoration of our national rights in which Jordan is or could be of help. We don't know because we are living in abnormal circumstance. Once we resolve that issue, it's much easier to resolve other issues. — Arab News.

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Each of Yohji Yamamoto's collections is a small revolution.

## Free choices, free looks

Johji Yamamoto, Japanese fashion designer

AT the age of forty-five, Yohji Yamamoto is one of the most famous Japanese fashion designers in the world. Each of his collections is a little revolution, in his way of treating colours and materials and, above all, in his way of eliminating the structure of shapes. His mother was a dressmaker and a war-widow and therefore, as is the custom in Japan, wore black for a long period. Yamamoto made this colour his emblem. Despite his law studies, at the age of 23 he joined a fashion school. On the Revolution, he has the view of an artist, so it is naturally rather marginal, and also of a Japanese, a little wary of mass movements.

According to you, what are the most outstanding events of the French Revolution?

The main interest of the French Revolution is the Declaration of the Rights of Man. What interests me is the problem of collective mentality. It is to know what happened in the collective mentality of the French, in order to be able to compare it with what would have happened in the Japanese mentality, if, hypothetically, the same events had occurred.

On the matter of the Declaration of the Rights of Man, I am more particularly interested in articles 9, 10 and 11 (these articles mainly concern freedom of thought). Human Rights represent the dark, animal part of man, through the idealisation of the Declaration of Human Rights. On this subject, I find article 9 particularly interesting ("Every man is considered innocent until he has been proved guilty").

Who, according to you, is the most interesting personality of the French Revolution?

For me, it is not a famous person. I am more interested in less well-known people who were able to hold power and accomplish a considerable number of achievements in a determined period.

Louis XVI also interests me, for we Japanese have an emperor but he is quite unlike Napoleon. Our Japanese emperor represents more of an idea or concept of a supreme being and I think Louis XVI incarnated this idea of a supreme being. But did he exist as such in the minds of the French or was he simply a man of power?

Would you have actively participated in the French Revolution, if you had lived in France at that time?

First of all, I would have to imagine to which social category I would have belonged. This is a very interesting question as there is a proverb in Japan saying once the food had gone beyond the bottom of the throat, it is no longer hot. It means that the Japanese forget easily and do not have a spirit of vengeance. This question demands a great effort of imagination. If I had been a poor peasant, I think I would not have participated in the Revolution and would have remained outside it. Personally, I do not like rigid, collective structures. I tend to flee if I have to participate in a movement. Moreover, on the level of the history of Japanese society, there have been many revolts in Japan. But a revolt on the scale of the French Revolution is unthinkable in Japanese society.

Among the other revolutions which took place in the world, which seems the most important to you?

For us Japanese, the French Revolution is the most important and biggest. But concerning the influence on the future of society, the Soviet Revolution had the greatest repercussions. Just after the Second World War, there was a very strong rivalry between communists and liberals in Japan. That is to say that the influence of the Soviet Revolution was more direct. But on the level of the principle, the French Revolution is the most important one.

You often say that you design clothes which abolish the appearance of belonging to a given social category. This is very close, in spirit, to the first article of the Declaration of the Rights of Man.

I was just saying that the Declaration of the Rights of Man is very idealistic. And the most idealistic of these articles is the first. It is almost a lie for I deeply believe that men are born unequal. If there is any relationship between my work and this problem, I think it rather lies in liberty and more particularly in the liberty of choosing one's clothes. This is a very delicate matter, as, if you question people to find out if they really wear the clothes they want to, few would reply yes. It is difficult to dress freely and I wish to contribute to this liberty.

So Liberty plays a great role in your professional activity? Absolutely. First, the act of dressing and of choosing an item of clothing presupposes the totally free choice of the item of clothing. That is what I call participating in fashion. Those who do not understand that cannot understand fashion. In Japan, a child's education includes clothes: the kimono. All children have been more or less forced to wear a type of clothing chosen by their parents. As a child grows up, he or she feels the desire to wear clothes of his or her own choice. That is when the child becomes autonomous and emancipated. The possibility of choosing one's own clothes is inextricably linked to the autonomy of the individual. Choosing one's clothes is, like all freedom, a very great responsibility. The freedom of wearing the clothes of one's choice can be represented by the metaphor of the apple which has a core and a skin. The two cannot be dissociated. The outside represents the core in the eyes of the world — L'Actuelle en France.

# Where the Planet Is Losing Its Life Forms

**A** SYMPATHETIC world keeps careful watch on elephants, pandas, whales, whooping cranes, California condors, blackfooted ferrets and other highly visible endangered species. For scientists, the fates of these animals is of great concern, and environmental groups have been able to rally parts of the public to the cause of rescuing them from extinction.

But biologists complain that despite their many warnings and efforts over the decades, many thousands of more obscure organisms are disappearing virtually unnoticed each year because of the ungentle agency of human activity.

Agriculture, industry and urbanization are destroying entire ecological systems in what is, by the time scale of biology, a

blink of the eye. The greatest rate of loss is now occurring where moist tropical forests, which include the widest range of species, are being cut or burned in Latin America, Africa and Asia. To a lesser degree, clusters of mass extinctions are also taking place in marine ecosystems, particularly coral reefs, on islands and in mountain ranges.

As these fragile systems vanish, they take with them the animals, plants and microorganisms that have evolved within their boundaries over millions of years. In many cases, these life forms are being destroyed before they are even identified

and classified.

E. O. Wilson, a Harvard biologist and expert on species diversity, contends that even by the most conservative estimates, human activity is causing the greatest spasm of extinction since the end of the Mesozoic era, 65 million years ago.

"There is a biodiversity crisis going on now," Dr. Wilson maintained, "and it is likely to accelerate without considerable effort to avert or moderate it, especially

in the tropical countries."

The minimum estimate of the number of species that inhabit tropical forests is two million. Of those some 4,000 a year are becoming extinct. But Dr. Wilson stressed that both the actual number of species inhabiting the forests and the number that are disappearing are probably many times greater than any estimates.

In fact, no one knows the full extent of the problem because no one knows how many species exist. So far, about 1.4 million species have been identified and given scientific names. Scientists' estimates of how many actually exist range

from 5 million to 30 million.

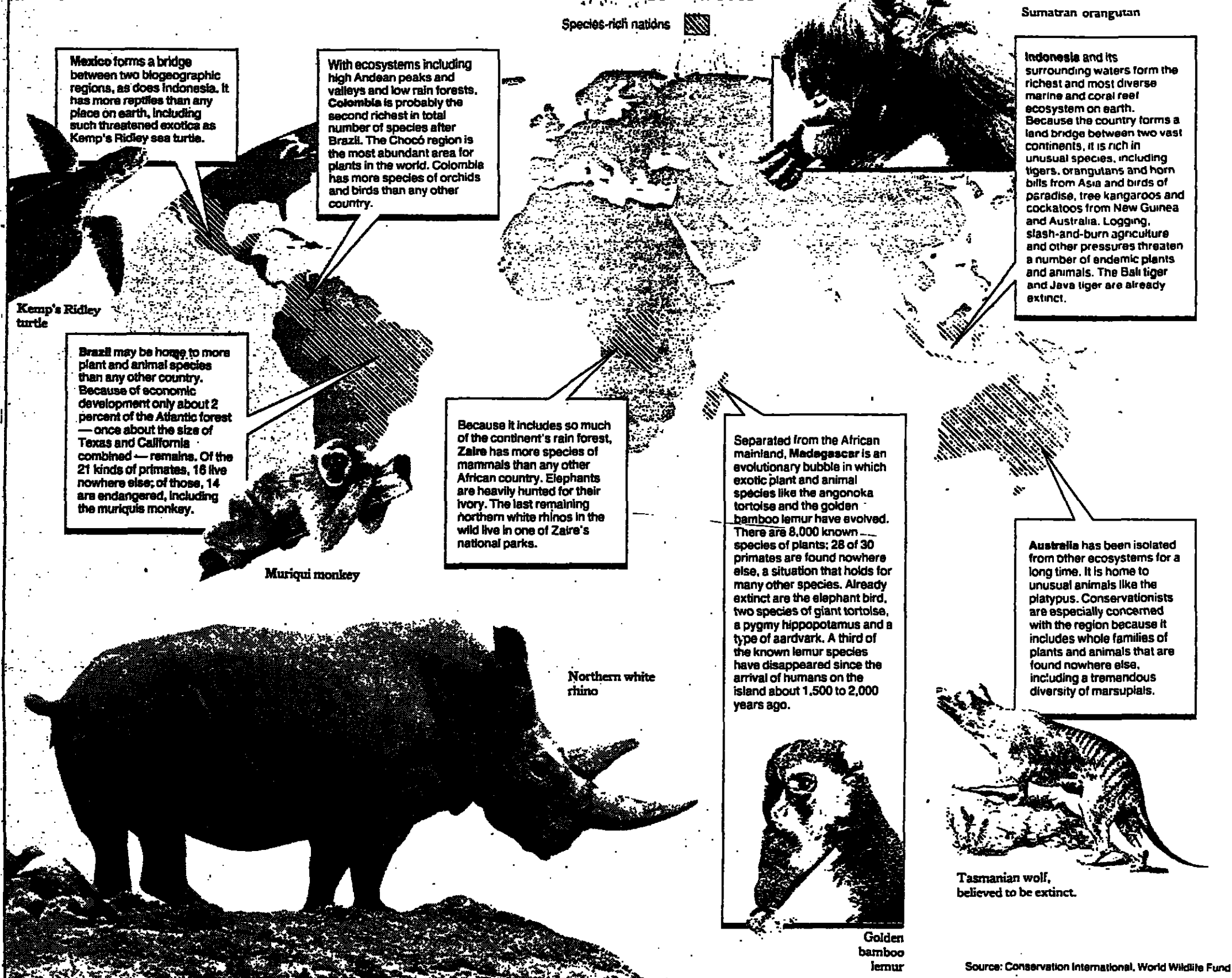
Biologists say these extinctions will have grave effects. For one thing, they argue that many unknown and disappearing organisms might have provided food, medicine or vital scientific information.

Above all, they say, the destruction of species, even those of no practical utility, means the loss of diversity that is essential to any society.

By identifying what Russell A. Mittermeier, the head of Conservation International, calls "megadiversity" countries, which have an unusually large number of species, biologists say they hope to awaken the world to what they regard as the loss of the intricate, interconnected body of the living planet.

PHILIP SHABECOFF

## The seven to watch



# The deadly dust legacy of South African asbestos

By Eddie Koch

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — A run-down graveyard in the mountain village of Mmabefo is just one of the legacies left by the mining companies which came to this remote corner of South Africa at the turn of the century to exploit the rare deposits of blue asbestos found there.

No-one has counted how many people have died from the asbestos, or lung cancer, caused by environmental and occupational exposure to asbestos dust in South Africa.

But the rudimentary graveyards in Mmabefo — some of them made from a mixture of cement and asbestos fibre — are a macabre indication of the deadly effect the pollution has had in parts of the country.

Mmabefo lies at the heart of an 80-kilometre belt that, running through the Strydom Mountains in the Northern Transvaal, contains some of the only deposits of blue asbestos in the world. The only other known reserves of the mineral, still prized in the manu-

facture of insulating and building materials, are in the Northern Cape, where a number of towns and villages have also been left with a huge pollution problem.

The asbestos industry has left its mark in other areas of South Africa as well. The country has a large number of factories that still make brake linings, building materials and heaters from asbestos. Many hardly bother to observe the government's minimal regulations to protect the health of workers in these plants.

Now a range of trade unions, community organisations and political groups is beginning to focus on the environmental and occupational hazards of asbestos and are mounting campaigns to protect the health of their members.

In the Northern Transvaal, mainly black villagers are affected — about 20,000 of them. In the Northern Cape, there are large white and black populations who have been exposed to the dust. In factories, the workers are mainly blacks.

The history of asbestos production in South Africa began when

the Cape Asbestos Company, began mining in the Northern Cape in the 1880s. It was later joined by the Grigoland Exploration and Finance Company (GEFCO), a South African firm which still operates a number of asbestos mines.

Both companies, together with smaller operators, expanded from the Cape asbestos belt into the Northern Transvaal when the mineral was discovered there in 1907.

Mining in both areas was primitive. The companies supplied tools and dynamite while the actual mining was undertaken by local villagers, who were called "freelance tributors". Payment was on a piece-work basis — as late as 1960 miners in Mmabefo were being paid R2.50 (about US\$1) for every two bags of ore collected — and women and children were encouraged to work in the mines.

While men went into the mountains to blast out the ore, women and children worked at the mill sorting the rock, chipping the fibres off the stones and packing crushed fibres into hes-

sian bags. Safety measures were non-existent and company reports from the time refer to women packing fibres while their babies lay next to them on piles of asbestos waste.

These practices continued into the 1970s even though the companies, by then, were in possession of a wealth of medical literature which had identified three deadly diseases caused by asbestos dust: asbestosis, which clogs the airways and scars the tissue of the lungs; lung cancer, which consists mainly of tumours in the lower lobes; and mesothelioma, a rare cancer that strangles the lung by thickening the lining around the organ.

When the companies left the areas in the late-1970s, mainly because international campaigns to highlight the lethal effects of asbestos had undermined demand overseas, they did not bother to clean up behind them.

Vast dumps were left uncovered next to old mining mills, waste from the dumps was used to surface gravel roads that run through the villages of the Northern Cape and the Northern

Transvaal, houses and schools were built from brick made out of the blue fibres. School playgrounds were covered by a thin layer of asbestos dust, children slid down the old dumps on pieces of cardboard, the rivers were polluted with fibres, and even the wind that blew through the villages carried with it the dust of death.

Now more than a decade since the companies abandoned the areas, the government has begun a R60-million (about US\$22-million) programme to cover the dumps and clean the asbestos waste.

At the same time a range of organisations has been working to highlight the problem.

A community-based health project in Mmabefo has monitored dust levels in the village and surveyed the extent of disease among the villagers. A final analysis of the results has not yet been released but initial indications are that each family has a member who has been affected by the dust.

The project will use its findings to press demands for a major

clean-up in the area. One problem it faces is that old miners from the village do not qualify for the minimal amounts of compensation paid by the government for occupational chest diseases because they were never formally on the payroll of a company.

The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa has mounted a campaign in the Natal region of the country to protect members from employers in the brake-lining industry, many of whom are flagrantly ignoring dust regulations in their factories.

Some 3,000 asbestos workers have been on a four-week wage strike to back demands for higher wages at four plants, owned by the Swiss-based Everite group, that makes building materials.

Their union, the Construction and Allied Workers' Union (BAMCWU) organises workers at the GEFCO-owned Penge mine in the Eastern Transvaal and has run a four-year campaign to educate villagers in the area about the environmental dangers of asbestos dust.

— Panos features.

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مكتبة الأمل



## CBJ decides to merge Petra Bank and Jordan Gulf Bank

AMMAN (Agencies) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Thursday ordered the merger of two local banks in order to strengthen the banking system in the Kingdom, according to a statement released by CBJ.

To implement the merger decision, the Economic Security Committee Thursday decided to dissolve the boards of directors of Petra Bank and Jordan Gulf Bank, appointed temporary managers at both banks and indefinitely suspended dealing in their shares on Amman Stock Exchange.

The merger has been decided "with a view to restructuring the capital of both banks in a way that will ensure the strengthening of the capital accounts of the new bank and increase its liquidity position, in order to enable it to enter new investment avenues."

which large scale economies will make available as well as meet the requirements of international banking transactions," the CBJ statement said.

The statement said the merger aimed at maintaining monetary stability in the Kingdom and rationalising the credit policy in the banking system.

It said operating procedures and internal auditing systems would be modernised as part of the new bank's reorganisation.

Jordan has 16 commercial banks, including six foreign ones. CBJ has appointed a new management committee to supervise

the administration of both banks. The committee consists of Mr. Walid Asfour as chairman, Dr. Jawad Anani as deputy chairman, Mr. Bassam Attari as committee member and general manager of Petra Bank, Mr. Walid Khairallah as committee member and general manager of Jordan Gulf Bank and Mr. Ahmad Chalabi as committee members.

"Both banks will be conducting business as usual and without interruption Saturday under their new management and with full attention to meeting the requirements of their customers," the CBJ statement said.

"The intention is to strengthen the banking system in Jordan," Attari, the new manager at Petra Bank told Reuters. "Further measures might be expected to

reorganise small, inefficient institutions."

Asked if Petra Bank had liquidity problems, he said, "It's nothing serious, just normal shortages any bank might have."

He said CBJ or inter-bank funds might be needed to cover shortages but deposits were safe and millions of dinars would be ready to meet demand when banks reopen Saturday.

"We are taking all the measures needed and we are sure the whole measure would raise confidence in the bank," he said. "It is a serious policy of reorganising the financial system of the country."

Attari said. He said the supervisory committee had orders to expedite the merger swiftly and said he expected the new bank to open in a few months with a capital of not less than JD 10 million.

## Scholars propose ruble convertibility plan

NEW YORK (AP) — Making the Soviet ruble into a useful world currency will require "far-reaching reforms of the Soviet economic system," according to a report to Moscow by a panel of Soviet and Western scholars.

The 60-page report released Thursday was sought by Soviet officials who are searching for ways to bring their rigid, unproductive economy into the modern world of trade and finance.

"I hope that this is something that is to be carefully looked at. We hope to distribute it widely in the Soviet Union," Vladimir Popov, one of the Soviet participants, said in a telephone interview.

The report was released at the Commission on Limits to Growth in Maastricht, Netherlands, where the meeting place for the report, which was made up of scholars from the United States, Canada, France

and the Soviet Union. Because the ruble cannot be freely exchanged for dollars, yen, marks and other Western currencies, it has virtually no value outside the Soviet Union.

Making the ruble convertible would permit expanded trade with the West and impose a market discipline on inefficient Soviet enterprises, in keeping with the perestroika campaign of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

It also would encourage more foreign investment in the Soviet Union, leading to a transfer of technology from the West. Western business executives favour it because they feel it would open a huge untapped market for their goods and services.

The panel proposed a five-step plan for achieving full convertibility of the ruble, possibly by as early as the year 2000.

But it noted that "the obstacles

to even a partial convertibility of the ruble are daunting. "It could trigger spiralling inflation, cause shortages, throw people out of work and exacerbate differences between rich and poor, the panel said.

Although the Soviet Council of Foreign Ministers last December ordered a plan for partial convertibility of the ruble, beginning with a 50 per cent devaluation this coming Jan. 1, many observers believe the concept could run afoul of internal politics.

"I'd say that the odds of a plan that would get the Soviet Union to meaningful convertibility being adopted are probably 50-50, in the foreseeable future," said Josef C. Brada, an Arizona State University professor who led the Vermont panel.

As a first step toward convertibility, the panel said hard West-

ern currencies should be sold to the highest bidding state enterprise instead of allocated by central planners, as is currently done. After that, it said, the auction should be broadened to a wider range of state enterprises.

In a third phase, cooperatives, private enterprises and Soviet-Western joint ventures should be allowed to bid for hard currencies in an open auction, which gradually would turn into a genuine foreign-exchange market, the panel said.

Households would be allowed to own foreign currencies in a fourth phase, although the government could maintain a two-tier exchange rate. Finally, foreigners would be given the right to exchange rubles freely.

The official exchange rate for the ruble is about \$1.60 but the black market rate ranges from 40 cents to as little as 9 cents to the ruble.

## OPEC keeps the tape up

LONDON (R) — Evidence increased Thursday that OPEC has failed to turn down the tap on its excess oil output even as prices weaken.

The International Energy Agency (IEA), the West's oil watchdog body, estimated that production by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in July was unchanged from June's 29.6 million barrels per day.

That followed earlier oil industry and stockbroker estimates of rising production well above 21 million, even though officials of the IEA on June 29 said that a new quota agreement effective July 1 would cut output slightly.

The agency said OPEC's drive down prices by about \$2 a barrel in the past month.

Market interest is centred on Kuwait which rejects a quota system allocating it around one billion barrels daily.

But the Gulf oil giant and producer of the rest of OPEC said it would try to cut to a 1988 target of 1.35 million.

The Paris-based IEA followed other analysts in finding that Kuwait failed to meet that pledge in July.

It produced a daily average of 1.8 million barrels including its share of a Saudi-Kuwait neutral zone, the IEA said.

Industry theories differ on what Kuwait is up to. Some oil executives and analysts think it favours slightly weaker crude prices — it has a big worldwide refining system of its own.

Others speculate that, looking for market share and for prestige, Kuwait's Emir decided it must not be out-produced by another Gulf quota-buster, the United Arab Emirates.

The UAE had also pledged to restrain its excess. On Thursday's IEA monthly oil report released it actually boosted output by 100,000 barrels to 1.6 million a day last month.

The IEA estimate of total OPEC volume at 29.6 million barrels daily was slightly below a tally reached in a Reuters survey completed Monday which, quoting industry sources, saw it at 21.5 million, its highest monthly volume this year.

From the IEA estimates, the three OPEC heavyweights, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran are all near their mandated quotas.

Analysts say that if Saudi Arabia joined the quota-busting it could repeat last year's glut when prices fell almost to \$10 per barrel.

## Customers unaware of trading losses as Chicago exchanges move to limit damage

CHICAGO (AP) — Prosecutors say losses suffered by victims of the illegal schemes that resulted in charges against traders at Chicago's futures markets were significant, but at least two investors expressed surprise to learn they had been bilked.

The exchanges, still feeling the sting of indictments against 46 traders Wednesday, took steps Thursday to implement tougher rules and penalties and increase scrutiny of the trading floor.

The head of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange said the measures were intended "to put the fear of God into the membership."

The Chicago Board of Trade took out full-page advertisements in Friday's editions of several newspapers, including the New York Times and the Washington Post. In them, the exchange promises to investigate all reports of wrongdoing and take disciplinary action against those found guilty.

Fourteen of the traders

charged already have agreed to plead guilty and cooperative with investigators, according to government sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

David Neisler of El Paso, Illinois, identified in the indictments as one of the customers victimised by the illegal trading practices, said Thursday, "I don't know what to make of the whole thing."

Neisler said he has used futures markets for nearly 20 years as a hedge against his investment in the soybean crop he grows on part of a 1,500-acre (607-hectare) family farm.

"I don't suppose I'll know how much is gone until this goes through trial," Neisler said. "But it's like somebody telling you that got gyped when you bought clothes at the department store not too long ago, and not telling you much else."

"You don't know how much, you don't win, you just know you've been gyped," he said.

Peter Gerlikas, another investor identified in the indictments, said he lost \$6,000 in a year and had heard talk of illegal trading activities from friends at the board of trade.

"I'd heard rumours, but I traded through a reputable company and I didn't figure this would touch me," said Gerlikas, a 31-year-old who runs a string of small businesses from his home in the northwest Chicago suburb of Palatine.

"Looking back now, I have no real way of knowing how much, if any, of the \$6,000 was taken through illegal trades," he said.

Both exchanges sought to start cleaning up the problems Thursday.

"This integrity of the markets and public confidence in them is our highest priority," Leo Melamed, chairman of the Merc's executive committee, said at a news conference. "If we falter in this responsibility, we will lose the right of self-regulation."

## Kremlin official sees bumper crop, but harvest not assured

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union's European breadbasket is growing a bumper crop, but shortages of spare parts and fuel are hurting farmers' ability to bring in the grain.

Vigor K. Ligachev, the Communist Party politburo member in charge of agriculture, said in a Soviet television interview late Wednesday that such key farming areas as the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Moldavia, and the Krasnodar, Stavropol and Rostov regions of southern Russia are looking forward to a bumper harvest.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has been tinkering with the inefficient, state-run farm system since taking power four years ago. A good growing season could give him the kind of sorely needed victory that has eluded his reform efforts.

Newspapers follow the grain harvest, which is just getting into full swing, nearly every day with front-page stories. The government newspaper Izvestia on July 19 cited reports of "high, and in some places record harvests."

Ligachev said the breadbasket's good crop could offset a serious drought in grain-growing regions of Siberia and Kazakhstan, and the chronic struggle with spare parts and fuel for combines, and storage.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which closely follows the Soviet grain crops, estimates that the harvest will be about 210 million tons, on a par with 1986 and 1987, and better than last year's harvest of 195 million tons. Last year's crop was damaged by a dry growing season, then damp weather slowed harvesting.

In story after story, Izvestia has

warned that a good crop doesn't guarantee a good harvest. The official government newspaper ended a biting July 31 piece on the shortage of parts for combines with the observation the harvest is so inefficient that "the more you grow, the more you lose."

Another story said fuel for the combines was in short supply throughout the Ukraine.

Ligachev said the Soviet Union loses 30 per cent of its harvest because of poor processing, and cited conclusions by Dutch specialists that Soviet food processing is decades behind Western methods.

A Western diplomatic who specialises in Soviet agricultural policy said the improved crop appeared to be a result of good weather rather than reform.

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### Iran, India settle loan dispute

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran and India settled a dispute Thursday over a loan made to the Indian steel organisation by Tehran in 1974, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said that India has agreed to repay the loan with interest in the form of raw materials for the Ahvaz Steel Complex in the Western province of Khuzestan. The agreement, over the \$255 million loan, was signed in Tehran by visiting Indian Finance Secretary G.K. Arora and Iran's deputy minister of economic and financial affairs, Mahdi Navab. IRNA quoted Arora as saying that the settlement ended an impasse which had caused unhappiness to both sides. Navab said all of Iran's claims will be repaid by the year 1993, IRNA reported.

### Brazil parties to back debt moratorium

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Thirteen major political parties say they will back emergency measures to reduce Brazil's \$122-billion foreign debt, including a new suspension of payments. In a 30-point document issued Thursday, the party leaders urged President Jose Sarney to negotiate a reduction of both debt principal and interest with international creditors. "If an accord with creditors cannot be reached, the government will have the political backing to declare an immediate suspension of payments," the document said. Brazil, with the developing world's largest debt, is negotiating an economic agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that will allow the country to receive more than \$4 billion in new loans. Banks have balked at giving new money to Brazil, which is in financial straits with 1,000 per cent annual inflation. But the country needs new money to meet an interest bill of \$2.3 billion due in September. Party leaders supported Sarney's decision in early July to suspend debt interest payments to keep the country's money reserves above "an adequate level." Brazil paid less than half the \$812 million due between June 30 and July 3 to foreign governments, according to the central bank.

### Argentine mint employees arrested

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Employees at Argentina's national mint apparently made illegal copies of austral notes and provincial bonds in a scheme that may have netted millions of dollars, officials said Thursday. Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli said it was too soon to say how much money was involved. Six people were being questioned in the scheme, according to Federal Judge Carlos Branca. The first arrests were made Monday and disclosed two days later. Branca said the scheme may have begun as far back as 1987, and was discovered earlier this year. The investigation was being conducted by the state intelligence service and the federal police. The independent news agency Diarios y Noticias, citing government sources it did not identify, said mint employees stole paper and chemicals to print copies of legitimate bills and bonds. The scheme came to light when different provincial bonds bearing the same certification numbers were discovered.

### Pemex says Far East oil prices down

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The price of Mexican crude oil sold in the Far East fell by four cents a barrel in July, the government petroleum monopoly Pemex said Thursday. The Isthmus-type crude oil sold in Asia for \$16 a barrel compared with \$16.04 a barrel in June, while its Maya crude sold for \$13.35 a barrel compared with \$13.39 in June. Pemex sells all its oil by contract and about 11 per cent of its exports go to the Far East. The United States is its biggest customer.

### No accord in Mitsui-Iran talks

TOKYO (R) — Mitsui and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) reached no agreement on the stalled Iran-Japan petrochemical project in recent high-level talks, a Mitsui spokesman said. He said M.H. Rahbari, deputy managing director of the Iranian company, returned to Iran after showing a softer stance toward an early settlement on the issue. The plant site at the Gulf coast city of Bandar Khomeini was hit by Iraqi air raids during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. Japanese firms, led by Mitsui, and NIOC have invested a total of 600 billion yen (\$4.4 billion) in the project. Rahbari and Hiroshi Watada, president of Iran Chemical Development Co., Japan's investment unit in the joint group, confirmed that the amount Mitsui would have to pay in case of liquidation of the project was a key to speedy settlement, the spokesman said. Mitsui has told the Iranians it wants to wind up the 50-50 joint venture project in a "friendly separation," pointing out that resumption of work on the complex was not financially justifiable. Iran has hinted it might agree to abandon the project.

### Eastern signs \$210 m sales pact

MIAMI (AP) — Eastern Airlines plans to seek federal bankruptcy court approval of an agreement to sell routes, gates and aircraft to Midway Airlines for \$210 million. The agreement is part of the Miami-based carrier's strike recovery plan, the companies announced Wednesday. Eastern plans to seek the approval within 10 days. The sale involves gates at Philadelphia International Airport and Eastern routes from Philadelphia to Montreal and Toronto. The deal also includes operating slots at Washington's National Airport and New York's Laganardia Airport, 16 DC-9 jetliners with spare engines and parts. Eastern has begun a restructuring that includes the sale of \$1.8 billion in assets, including the sale to the Chicago-based Midway, to emerge from bankruptcy court as a smaller carrier. The two carriers reached a tentative agreement on the package in mid-June, about six weeks after the disabling strike by Eastern machinists forced the carrier to file for financial reorganisation. Midway arranged the financing for a closing this fall.

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## Compromise reached over bailout of U.S. savings and loans industry

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush's administration reached a compromise Thursday night with congressional negotiators on paying for a \$159-billion bailout of the savings and loan industry, the largest financial rescue in U.S. history.

The compromise was reached after a series of fast-paced developments in which Bush threatened to veto the bill, the Democratic-controlled House ignored him in a 221-199 vote in favour of it and Senate Democrats fell six votes short of mustering the 60 needed to complete action.

The Senate's failure automatically tossed the bill back into a House-Senate conference committee, which locked up the compromise deal. Approval is expected by the full Senate, and then the House.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady and White House Budget Director Richard Darman accepted a compromise proposal splitting the cost of the bailout so that only 40 per cent of the \$30 billion needed would increase the federal deficit immediately.

The deal calls for the treasury to borrow \$20 billion this year, raising the estimated deficit from \$149 billion to \$169 billion, and borrowing by a new agency to raise the \$30-billion balance next year and the year after without counting that in the official deficit.

"Obviously we've only had an opportunity to make a quick review, but based on that review... in the spirit of which the president sent us here, which was one of compromise, we accept," Brady said.

The compromise was approved on a 26-22 vote among House members of the conference committee.

All of the money would be used to close some 500 insolvent savings and loans — the bulk of them in Texas — and pay off savers whose federally insured deposits were lost through failed and often fraudulent loans.

The bill also would institute a major overhaul of the government's regulation of the nation's nearly 3,000 thrifts and require their owners to top billions of dollars more of their own money at risk.

The industry's losses have been building for a decade because of a combination of economic turmoil, uneven deregulation, sloppy government supervision and sometimes poor or fraudulent management.

The Bush administration and Congress had reached agreement long ago on the bulk of the legislation directing and overhauling the industry's structure and regulation in an effort to prevent a recurrence of the crisis.

But a confrontation over the financing had threatened to trash the deal.

With savings and loan losses mounting at a rate of \$20 billion to \$30 billion a day, both the administration and congressional leaders were adamant in their demands that the fix be approved before the vacation recess.

Before Thursday night, the administration had insisted that all of the bailout's costs be raised through 30-year bonds issued outside the normal treasury borrowing process — and outside the official deficit.

### Leading economic index falls

Meanwhile, the government said Thursday that its chief economic forecasting gauge fell in June for the fourth time in five months, providing fresh evidence that the U.S. economy is entering a period of sluggish growth.

The Commerce Department's index of leading economic indicators dipped 0.1 per cent in June. While the amount of the decline was small, the weakness was widespread, with seven of the index's 11 individual indicators flashing negative signals.

The small decline had been expected by analysts, who are debating whether the economy's slowdown will worsen into recession.

Traditionally, the signal for an economic downturn has been three consecutive monthly declines in the leading index. The index, however, rose in April, breaking the string of declines.

The forecasting gauge dropped in February and March, then rose 0.6 per cent in April before plunging 1.3 per cent in May. That was the biggest one-month setback since late 1987 following the stock market crash in October of the year.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, August 3, 1989			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	573.4	579.4	91.4 92.3
Pound Sterling	322.4	361.9	421.3 425.5
Deutsche mark	307.7	312.8	274.5 277.2
Swiss franc	360.9	364.5	80.4 81.3
Japanese yen (for 100)			43.1 43.5
Dutch guilder			148.3 149.3

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

		U.S. dollars
One Sterling	1.634555	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.173545	Deutsche mark
	1.875865	Dutch guilder
	2.116976	Swiss franc
	1.614252	Belgian franc
	39.27/30	French franc
	6.3550/600	Italian lire
	1351/1352	Japanese yen
	137.80/90	Nordic crowns
	6.4150/200	Norwegian crowns
	6.8920/70	Danish crowns
	7.9230/80	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	371.50/372.00	

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The rally on the Share Market continued with prices closing higher due to overseas buying and underlying confidence. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 6.3 at 1,670.9.

TOKYO — Share prices closed mixed in very thin trading, after languishing in negative territory all day as most institutions quit early. The Nikkei fell 37.82 to 34,741.99.

HONG KONG — Rumours that senior Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping's health is failing sent Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index tumbling to end 55.51 points lower at 2,579.07 despite a late bounce.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed lower across the board on late selling and profit-taking following a sharp fall in Hong Kong. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 10.53 points to finish at 1,349.18.

BOMBAY — After a sharp fall this week, prices recovered moderately on short-covering spurred by hopes that state-owned institutions would increase their buying. Baroda Rayon firmed 10 rupees to 525.

FRANKFURT — Strong demand for big chemicals underpinned shares and pushed prices higher across the board. The Real-Time 30-Share Dax Index jumped and closed at 1,590.30, a rise of 15.42.

ZURICH — Swiss share prices recovered from earlier small losses to close mixed on average volume. The All-Share Swiss Performance Index rose 0.3 point to 1,179.6.

PARIS — Shares eased slightly in generally uninspired trading with few features interest the market at midday. The 50-Share Price Indicator was 0.1 per cent easier at mid-session.

LONDON — Share prices were below the day's best levels as Wall Street opened lower on the back of falls in the U.S. bond market. At 1615 GMT the FTSE index 21 points up at 2,327.3.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips slipped lower as a rally in technology stocks eased. The Dow was down five at 2,656.

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## Janet Evans looks hard for competition

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Janet Evans appears bigger and stronger at the U.S. swimming championships than she did when she won three gold medals last year at the Seoul Olympics.

Now if the 17-year-old, still cheerful as always, could just get some meaningful competition.

Evans won the 400-metre individual medley Tuesday by nearly eight seconds. On Wednesday, she was only slightly more challenged, winning the 400-metre freestyle by almost five seconds. Her time of 4:06.73 was nearly three seconds slower than her world record, but still the fastest time in the world this year. And it broke the pool record of 4:07.10 set by Tiffany Cohen in the 1984 Olympics.

"It felt slower than a 4:06," she said. "I need competition to break the world record. It's tough to swim fast when there's no one near you."

"I just felt like I was going through eight laps."

Evans was on a pace to break her world record of 4:03.85, but fell off that pace by the 300-metre mark. And that illustrates her current dilemma.

"I always swim faster when I have competition," Evans said.

"It's kind of hard to swim just against the clock."

Evans' victories here have put her on the U.S. team for the pan Pacific games in Tokyo and a dual meet against the Soviets in Atlanta, both later this month.

"I think I'm still getting better," she said. "I'm training just as hard as I did last year. I loved all the competition in the Olympics. It makes me swim faster."

"That's what happened in the 400-metre freestyle finals at Seoul. East Germany's Heike Friedrich had never been beaten in major competition, but Evans came on in the last 100 metres and won the race, lowering her world record to 4:03.85. Heike was second in 4:05.94.

"At the Olympics, I thought (Friedrich) was still there," Evans said. "In the last 25 metres I realised, 'Gee, she's not there.'"

"I had her there. I didn't have her here."

Evans holds world records in the 400, 100 and 1,500 freestyle, and the American mark in the 400 individual medley.

Evans is growing; she's 5-foot-6 and 110 pounds (50 kilograms).

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

**BORG PUTS UP CASH FOR AILING COMPANY:** Sweden's former tennis ace Bjorn Borg will put up the cash to pay the debts of his ailing fashion company, the president of the firm said in Stockholm Wednesday. "Bjorn Borg has personally promised to meet the company's debt," Stig Sjöblom, president of Bjorn Borg Design Group, said in a statement. But last week's decision to close the Scandinavian operation had not changed. Borg 33, announced last week he would close the Scandinavian division of the clothing empire he built from cash and fame won in a tennis career during which he won the Wimbledon championship five times. Managers at Bjorn Borg Invest AB, which controls his Scandinavian interests, then called in liquidators to see if the company could be saved from financial collapse. Sjöblom did not say how much money was owing or how much Borg would have to pay. (R)

**JAPAN BEATS TAIWAN 5-4 FOR WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP:** Japan scored three runs in the fourth inning to beat Taiwan 5-4 and win the first world Youth Baseball Championship Thursday in Tokyo. Trailing 5-2 with one out in the bottom of the ninth, Taiwan scored twice on Chen Ching-Kuo's solo homer and Wu Chun-Liang's double, but fell short. Japan's Takashi Shiozaki, who allowed 12 hits over 6 1-3 innings against Taiwan for the victory, was chosen the tournament's most valuable player. He finished with a 3-0 record. China defeated South Korea 4-3 for third place in the eight-nation tournament for players between 13 and 15-year-old. China's pitchers Gao Lijun and Jiang Xiaoyun limited the Koreans to five hits in Tokyo's Jingu stadium.

**FITIPALDI WANTS SECOND MARLBORO 500:** Emerson Fittipaldi will be battling history as well as fellow Indy car drivers Sunday in the ninth annual Marlboro 500 at Michigan International Speedway. He won the event in 1985, and no driver has won it twice. Fittipaldi has four victories, two seconds and a third this season and has a 23-point lead over second-place Rick Mears in his bid to join Mario Andretti as the only drivers to win the Formula One and cart driving titles. The 42-year-old native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, has roared to the top of the cart-PPG Indy car world series standings in a Chevy-powered PC-18 owned by U.E. Patrick and sponsored by Marlboro. (AP)

**DRUG TESTING INEFFECTIVE, INQUIRY HEARS:** Drug-testing programmes for amateur athletes at sports competitions have proven largely ineffective and should be replaced by random testing, a Canadian government inquiry heard in Toronto Wednesday. In an exchange with Dr. Robert Dugal, head of a major doping-control laboratory in Montreal, inquiry commissioner Justice Charles Dubin said tests at international events had failed to deter athletes using performance-enhancing drugs. "We've had cases where we know the athlete's been on anabolic steroids for years... and been tested time and time again and they're negative because they're able either to mask it or to circumvent it or to clear it from the system long enough before the games itself," Dubin said. Disgraced sprinter Ben Johnson has already admitted to the inquiry that he took steroids for years before last September's Seoul Olympics where he was stripped of his 100 metres gold medal after testing positive for steroid use. Dugal, whose International Olympic Committee-accredited laboratory in Montreal handles testing for the Sports Medicine Council of Canada, acknowledged the need for change. He said in-competition testing "is the best thing that we could do up to now, but there was a gradual realization in the 1980s that only the careless or the ill-advised get caught..."

**SOTOMAYOR SAYS EARNINGS WILL GO TO CUBAN SPORTS:** Cuban high jumper Javier Sotomayor, who set a world record of eight feet (2.44 metres) this past weekend, said he will turn over all his prize earnings to Cuban sports. "I will accept any invitation to compete internationally but I will donate any prize money to Cuban sports," Sotomayor said in a published interview Wednesday with the San Juan daily El Nuevo Dia. Sotomayor beat his own record of 7.97 feet (2.43 metres) Saturday, at the central American and Caribbean Amateur Athletic championship games. "You can't jump eight feet every day, so I'm not sure I'll be able to improve that record in the next competitions," Sotomayor said. Johnny Osorio, secretary of the Puerto Rican Athletics Federation, told the Associated Press that Sotomayor's record has earned him invitations to meet in the United States, starting Sunday at the University of California in Los Angeles. Sotomayor said he will donate any prize money to the Cuban Amateur Athletics Federation. "I think Sotomayor is in the category (of athletes) whose federation will receive between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for international competitions," Osorio said. (AP)

**YUGOSLAV STAR PETROVIC DENIES SUIING REAL MADRID:** Yugoslav basketball star Drazen Petrovic in Zagreb Thursday denied reports he was suing his team Real Madrid for not releasing him to play in the National Basketball Association (NBA). Petrovic, 25, voted best player of this year's European championship which Yugoslavia won, said reports that he was suing Real for \$10 million were untrue. "I don't know anything about that," he said. "Not only am I not suing Real, but I showed up at their first training session of the new season Wednesday." Petrovic was drafted by the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers three years ago and renewed his contacts with the team last month, although his two-year contract with Real still has one year to run. (R)

## Rugby stars receive S. African invitations

LONDON (AP) — British rugby players have received invitations to tour South Africa this month, it was announced Thursday. Dudley Wood, Secretary of the Rugby Union, confirming the offers had been passed on to the players, refused to divulge names.

The RU's decision to hand on the offers from South Africa for matches in the republic has increased the likelihood of disruption to the Commonwealth Games in Auckland, New Zealand, according to one games official.

David Dixon, Commonwealth Games Federation Secretary, said the rugby tour was a bigger threat to the games than was the decision of 16 England cricketers this week to go to the republic on a rebel tour in January.

At least cricket authorities have condemned the rebels, Dixon said. Rugby chiefs had given "tacit approval" to the matches this month and September.

Dixon still hopes to dissuade the cricketers from going in an effort to save the games. Black African countries who oppose sports contact with South Africa are considering a boycott of the games or lobbying to ban British teams.

Meanwhile, the battle for the hearts and minds of the rebel cricketers continued.

John Carlisle, a conservative member of parliament, condemned British Sports Minister Colin Moynihan for urging the cricketers to reconsider.

Speaking on behalf of a right-wing lobby group called Freedom in Sport International, Carlisle said Moynihan "has no authority or parliamentary responsibility to prevent players from touring."

Moynihan reiterated the government's opposition to the tour Thursday, pointing out that the Glenageary agreement, to which Britain is a signatory, forbids national teams playing in South Africa.

The International Campaign against Apartheid Sport, a London-based lobby group, said this response was not enough.

The British government should withdraw from the rebels the tax benefits that apply to county players' benefit year incomes, it said.

It should inquire, too, said the group, into the role of those BBC sports commentators who also work for the South African Broadcasting Corp.

Jack Bannister, Tony Lewis and Christopher Martin-Jenkins were named in the Times Thursday as belonging to that category.

Bannister, writing in his position as cricket correspondent of the Birmingham Post and Mail, denied he had recruited players. "I first knew about the first 10 names of the 16 players concerned in early June and, far from recruiting being done by myself or anyone else, my information is that at least 11 of the 16 volunteered once it became known on the county circuit that tour was likely," he wrote.

## Top Soviet gymnasts fired for drunkenness

MOSCOW (AP) — Olympic triple gold medalist Dimitry Bilozherchev and a colleague were kicked off the Soviet team for the world gymnastics championships because of a two-day drinking binge, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Bilozherchev, 22, and teammate Vladimir Gogoladze "had a corrupting influence on other members of the team," top Soviet gymnastics official Leonid Arkayev told Sovetskoy Sport. They were removed from the squad, he said.

The newspaper said the pair's fate was not unique in Soviet sports.

"The situation is so typical for our sports, that this almost doesn't require any elaboration, commentaries or conclusions," it said.

Bilozherchev was known previously to have an alcohol problem. He was in a car accident in 1985 while driving drunk and broke his leg in 38 places. He recovered after difficult therapy.

Last year, he made a spectacular comeback, getting six perfect

marks and winning gold medals in the pommel horse and rings and as part of the Soviet men's team at the Seoul Olympics. He also won a bronze medal in the men's all-around.

The world gymnastics championships are scheduled for Stuttgart, West Germany, Oct. 15-22.

Sovetskoy Sport said Bilozherchev's neighbour had warned the newspaper before the 1985 accident that the gymnast was drinking too much vodka, but reporter V. Golubev said, "I answered the reader that he was probably mistaken."

Bilozherchev was almost expelled from the Soviet team just before the Seoul Olympics for his drinking in Minsk, Byelorussia, the newspaper said. But Soviet sports officials decided to keep him on the team "with the goal of

general victory of the Soviet team," Sovetskoy Sport said.

In a biting comment on the dominant role of national prestige in Soviet sports, the newspaper said: "The brilliance of medals is more important for us than a person's fate."

Sovetskoy Sport said his latest problems started when Bilozherchev and his friend failed to show up at a sports training centre.

Bilozherchev, the youngest gymnastics champion of Europe and the world, announced at the beginning of the year that he would give up gymnastics. The newspaper gave a sympathetic portrayal of what it described as his troubled life, with a sick wife and newborn child.

The Soviet Union stepped up its drive against alcoholism when Mikhail S. Gorbachev came to power in March 1985, but has since slackened restrictions in part because the lost income from lower alcohol sales was hurting the government budget.

## Reds set league record with 18-2 win over Astros

NEW YORK (AP) — The Cincinnati Reds set a major league record with 16 hits during a 14-run first inning as they demolished the Houston Astros 18-2 Thursday.

Seven Reds had two hits off Houston starter Jim Clancy and reliever Bob Forsch in the first at Riverfront Stadium, breaking a century-old record. The previous record for most batters with two hits in an inning was set by Chicago against Detroit in 1883.

The Reds fell one run short of the National League record for most runs in one inning, set by Brooklyn in the first inning against Cincinnati in 1952.

The previous one-inning hit record was set by the Boston Red Sox, who had 14 against Detroit in 1953. The National League record of 12 hits in one inning was held by the St. Louis Cardinals, who did it against Cincinnati in 1925. The Red's singles in the first inning were another record.

Tom Browning, pitched an eight-hitter for the Reds.

**Cardinals 6, Mets 5**

Tom Paganuzzi's run-scoring single broke a sixth-inning tie and Milt Thompson matched his career high with four RBIs as St. Louis edged the Mets. Dan Quisenberry got the win.

**Cubs 2, Phillies 0**

Greg Maddux, Mitch Williams and Les Lancaster combined on six-hitter for Chicago's eighth shutout, leading the Cubs past Philadelphia. Damon Berryhill hit his fifth homer leading off the fourth inning to give the Cubs a 2-0 lead.

**Padres 6, Braves 5**

Tony Gwynn helped San Diego

complete a three-game sweep with two-run scoring singles as the Padres best slumping all-star John Smoltz and Atlanta.

**Pirates 1, Expos 0**

Pinch-hitter Benny Distefano's run-scoring single with two outs in the 12th inning broke a scoreless tie and lifted Pittsburgh past Montreal, cutting the Expos' lead over Chicago in the NL East to two games. Doug Bair got the win.

**Dodgers 6, Giants 3**

Orel Hershiser beat San Francisco for the 15th time in 19 career decisions, leading Los Angeles past the injury-plagued Giants 6-3.

**American League**

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Gordon three-hitter Thursday, putting the Kansas City Royals over the Toronto Blue Jays 5-0.

"I set up the batters with my fastball and used the curve to get the strikeout or the ground ball," Gordon said. "But it's not like I throw the same pitches all game. I've got three different speeds on my curve ball and the curve was probably the best I've had all season."

Danny Tartabull went 3-for-4 with an RBI single for the Royals.

Fred McGriff singled in the second and doubled in the eighth and Kelly Gruber singled in the seventh to account for the only hits off Gordon.

Jimmy Key, lost his seventh straight decision, giving up three

runs, three hits and four walks in 4 QAE innings.

George Brett's RBI grounder and Tartabull's RBI single off reliever Frank Willis put the Royals ahead 3-0 in the fifth.

**Indians 4, Red Sox 2**

Rod Nichols beat Boston for the second time in a week and Cory Snyder drove in two runs with a bases-loaded single, leading the Cleveland Indians over the Red Sox.

**Yankees 8, Twins 1**

Chuck Cary pitched a five-hitter for his second straight complete game and the New York Yankees hammered Rick Aguilera in his debut with the Minnesota Twins.

**White Sox 6, Athletics 4**

Rod Karkovics' first career triple broke a sixth-inning tie and the Chicago White Sox ended Oakland's four-game winning streak. Donnell Palfrey pitched 3 WAE scoreless innings for the victory.

**Tigers 9, Rangers 6**

Alan Trammell's second RBI single broke a tie in the eighth inning and the Detroit Tigers went on to beat Texas in a game that saw each team issue eight walks. Mike Hemmaman worked the last 2, 2-3 innings for the win.

**Angels 6, Mariners 0**

Kirk McCaskill pitched his third shutout and California's 15th of the season while Jonny Ray and Devon White hit two-run homers, boosting the Angels into first place.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AKQ6 ♣95 ♠AKJ3 ♠J63  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?  
A.—It's a difficult decision. Rule out two spades—you aren't quite good enough to guarantee game. That leaves a slightly imperfect two no-trump or an underbid of one spade. We prefer one spade because we don't believe game can be made unless partner can bid again, and we surely don't want to bypass such a strong four-card major.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠KJ63 ♠A106 ♠AKJ5 ♠87  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
What is your opening bid?  
A.—The structure that you needed at least Q in your diamond suit to open the bidding with one no-trump has long gone by the boards. If you don't open this 16-point hand with 1 NT, you'll never be able to describe it properly.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠KQ73 ♠A106 ♠AKJ5 ♠87  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
What action do you take?  
A.—While partner could be broke, he could also have some 6-7 points, and that could be enough to give you play for game. Tell partner you have a maximum no-trump with excellent spade support by raising to three spades. That leaves the decision to bid game to him.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South

you hold:  
♠KQ73 ♠A106 ♠AKJ5 ♠87  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?  
A.—You don't know whether partner is interested in game or slam. All you can do for the moment is pass along the good news that you have a maximum no-trump opener with excellent support for his suit. You accomplish that by making your cheapest cue-bid—four diamonds.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠95 ♠KQ73 ♠AKJ5 ♠AJ6  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?  
A.—Even though you have a maximum cue bid, no trump opening bid, there is a glaring flaw—no support for partner's suit. At no trump, partner's hand might not produce much for you. Pass.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠K3 ♠AQ42 ♠AK63 ♠J94  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ 2 ♠  
What action do you take?  
A.—You could easily have the best hand at the table, yet your side might not have a playable game. As against that, we do not see how East can come to eight tricks in light of partner's vulnerable opening bid. We would double. (If we were playing negative doubles, we would have to take the same action because partner might not be able to reopen.)

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I bought a hair crimper! How does it feel to be married to the hippest hubby in town?"

## JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INNOO

TEBER

CLOUNK

NAHRGE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:



HER CHOICE OF HUSBAND SHOWED BETTER TASTE THAN THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

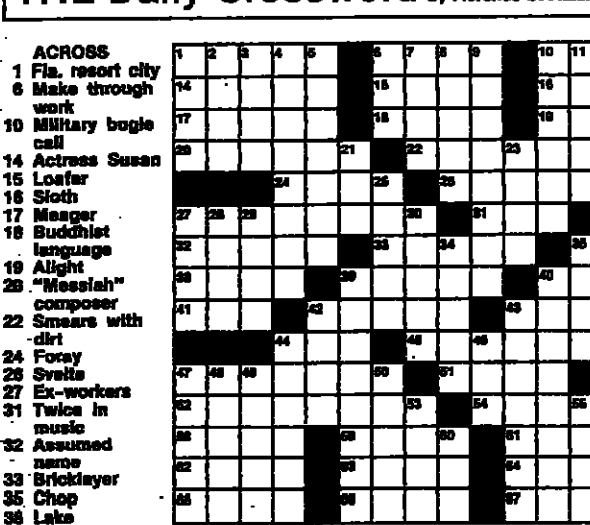
Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: LADLE PROXY AUBURN CATCHY

Answer: Some sellers who make their living on water seldom do this—TOUCH-IT-ON LAND

## THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler



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Saturday's Puzzle Solver:

1. Flie, resort city  
2. Make through work  
3. Military badge  
4. Actress Susan  
5. Leaflet  
6. Slit  
7. Meager  
8. Buddhist language  
9. Alight  
10. "Wee!"  
11. Smears with dirt  
12. Foray  
13. Swell  
14. Ex-workers  
15. Twice in music  
16. Assumed name  
17. Bricklayer  
18. Chop  
19. Lark  
20. More attractive  
21. Sample of a kind  
22. Comp. pt.  
23. Jewish festival  
24. Lark  
25. Capricious play  
26. Silly maybe  
27. Classifies  
28. Patched  
29. Cape  
30. Musical direction  
31. Hibemite  
32. Debts  
33. "Hooray!"  
34. Islamic prayer  
35. Entice  
36. Metric unit  
37. Handway  
38. Pack away  
39. Seed coat  
40. Dutch painter  
41. Crying  
42. Psycho  
43. Initial  
44. Blinded king  
45. Parts  
46. Men next door  
47. Dutch flowers  
48. "What's in—?"  
49. Jury  
50. Like beer  
51. Polygraph  
52. Target  
53. Forecast word  
54. Heedless  
55. Coat  
56. Spirit  
57. Jade  
58. Fine fabric  
59. Certain vehicles  
60. Hitter  
61. Middle East  
62. Barbara  
63. Gaudy  
64. Leading  
65. Grab  
66. Envy  
67. Knitting term  
68. Side by side  
69. Gaudy  
70. War god  
71. Civil wrong  
72. Draft status  
73. Grab  
74. Make clothes

## Peanuts



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp





Sinhalese extremists kill Buddhist priest, enforce daylong strike to protest at government action

## India, Sri Lanka fail to reach pullout agreement

**NEW DELHI (Agencies)** — New Delhi and Colombo failed to agree Friday on ways to resolve a Tamil rebellion in Sri Lanka or a timetable for withdrawing Indian troops from the strife-torn island, diplomatic sources said.

They said seven days of talks between the foreign ministers of the two countries went on until just before the Sri Lankan party was due to leave for home. The issues, however, "could not be concluded in the way it was anticipated," one source quoted by Reuters said.

In Sri Lanka, Sinhalese radicals shot and killed a leading Buddhist priest in his temple, and appeared to have succeeded in enforcing their call for a daylong anti-government strike Friday, police said.

The priest, Kotikawatte Sad-

dhantha, was killed Thursday night by six gunmen in a Colombo temple, police said. The gunmen were suspected members of the anti-government People's Liberation Front (JVP), a group of Sinhalese extremists, said police officials who asked not to be identified.

Saddhantha, a supporter of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, was the second religious leader killed by the radicals. In February, the front's gunmen killed Bodaramulle Subhita, the head priest of the Kalutara Temple, 40 kilometres south of Col-

ombo. Sinhalese-language posters signed by the front warned businessmen to close shops and workers to stay at home Friday to protest the killing of 150 people by government security forces a week ago.

Police and witnesses said the daylong strike appeared to be successful as the usually-bustling capital of 600,000 people was deserted. Shops and offices were closed and vehicles stayed off city streets.

In the Sinhalese-dominated south, few people stepped out of their homes, said residents contacted by telephone.

At least 150 people were killed July 28 when supporters of the radicals defied a nationwide curfew and demonstrated against the continued presence of Indian

troops on the island.

The government had earlier warned that curfew violators would be shot on sight to prevent what it calls a campaign of terror by the Sinhalese militants. The curfew remains in effect from dusk to dawn.

Authorities blame the radicals for at least 4,000 killings and a series of crippling strikes since the start of an anti-government uprising two years ago.

In New Delhi, an official at the Sri Lankan high commission, or embassy, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the talks on Indian withdrawal were over.

Colombo wants India to withdraw its 45,000 troops fighting Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the northern and eastern part of the island.



Policemen checking the curfew pass of a cyclist in Colombo

## COLUMN

### New Yorkers are seeing more stars

**NEW YORK (AP)** — New Yorkers who stayed in the city this summer are seeing an assortment of stars day and night as more than a dozen films are before the cameras here this year. Robert De Niro and Ray Liotta are working with director Martin Scorsese on "Good Fellas," a film based on the best-selling book "Wiseguy." Sean Penn is filming "State of Grace," while Bill Murray is working on "Quick Change." Recently wrapped movies filmed in New York include "Cadillac Man" with Robin Williams, "The Freshman," starring Marlon Brando, and "She Devil," featuring Meryl Streep and Roseanne Barr.

### Iron curtain selling like hot cakes

**BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)** — Hungarian border guards are doing a brisk business in the iron curtain, the news agency MTI said Thursday. Some 117 kilometres of the 260-kilometre-long barbed wire fence along the Hungarian-Austrian border has already been removed, MTI said.

"The fence, made of good-quality West German steel that has not rusted for ten years in service, proves to be a good source of income for the border guards," the agency reported. It said they expect to make as much as 150,000 forints (\$2,500) per kilometre through sales to individuals, with total receipts amounting to 39 million forints (\$650,000). The border guard also expected to save 25 million forints (\$417,000) a year on fence maintenance. MTI said the border guards sell the pieces without a certificate of origin, in hopes that they will not become politically charged souvenirs. "Their efforts, however, seem to be in vain as it is rumoured that some gift shops in Austria, West Germany and the United States actually offer inches of the Hungarian 'iron curtain' of questionable origin at prices varying between 20 and 40 dollars." There have been reports that a Hungarian trade office in New York has received thousands of orders for "iron curtain" souvenirs, and a Hungarian company is apparently producing such souvenirs for export, mostly to the United States and Britain.

**'Cocaine tax' defaulter charged**

**LEWISTON, Idaho (AP)** — A man arrested in a cocaine bust has become the first person charged under an Idaho law requiring dealers to buy a tax stamp for their illegal drugs. Victor H. Smith, 23, is charged with cocaine possession and failure to pay the special state tax on the drugs, which were found July 3. He was freed on \$500 bail. The law, which took effect July 1, requires purchase of tax stamps on dealer quantities of cocaine, marijuana and other drugs. Violations carry up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Steve Tobias, Nez Perce county prosecutor, said the arrest is the first under the law, although the tax commission has initiated civil penalties against one person. The stamps are about 13 centimetres square and are green for marijuana, blue for controlled substances sold by quantity and red for those sold by dosage. The stamps cost \$3.50 per gram for marijuana and \$200 per gram for cocaine. The Tax Commission, which issues the stamps, is prohibited from trying to establish the identity of the buyer. "We will mail them to whatever address or post office box," said Steven Miller, commission chief of operations in Boise, Idaho.

### U.N. chief: Namibia police unfit for duty

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said that South African-trained police in Namibia are intimidating the civilian population and should be dismissed from duty.

The U.N. chief said Namibia's independence plan was on track, but the biggest problem was the presence of members of the counter-insurgency force called Koevoet in the Namibian police force.

Koevoet, which means "Crowbar" in Afrikaans, was an aggressive force organised by South Africa to eradicate guerrillas of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), the main group that fought for the country's independence.

Koevoet was disbanded last year under the U.N. plan for Namibia's transition to independence from nearly 75 years of South African rule, but most of its members joined the South-West Africa police.

"In the years preceding implementation of the United Nations plan, Koevoet had earned an evil reputation in northern Namibia," Perez de Cuellar told the Security Council in a private briefing Thursday.

U.N. officials in Namibia have "clearly established that ex-Koevoet elements in the South-West Africa police have not adjusted to the new political situation in Namibia and have continued to harass and intimidate the civilian population," he said.

"They are not suitable for continued employment in the police force under the terms of the United Nations plan," said Perez de Cuellar.

Under the U.N. plan, however, South Africa's administrator-general, Louis Pienaar, is responsible for civil administration in Namibia. Pienaar has said he will not fire ex-Koevoet members wholesale, but will investigate

specific charges of mistreatment. The United Nations has more than 5,000 soldiers and policemen in the territory, but their role is largely supervisory.

The chief U.N. administrator in Namibia, Martti Ahtisaari, said that officials who are trying to reinstate the 2,000 former Koevoet members say 85 per cent of them are illiterate and "unable to take down a citizen's complaint or a crime report."

Perez de Cuellar said the second major problem relates to South Africa's fear that SWAPO guerrillas will invade northern Namibia from their bases in Angola.

More than 1,600 SWAPO armed fighters did enter the north in early April, apparently in an attempt to surrender themselves to U.N. peacekeepers. Hundreds of guerrillas and dozens of Namibian security forces died in pitched battles before calm was restored.

The U.N. chief said he had instructed his officials in Angola to make sure that all SWAPO guerrillas stay in their bases about 150 kilometres north of Angola's border with Namibia.

"To sum up," said Perez de Cuellar, "I believe that, after a most difficult start, the independence process is now well on track for a free and fair election to be held under the supervision and control of the United Nations in early November."

Perez de Cuellar was briefing the Security Council in closed session on his mid-July tour of Namibia and meetings with South African officials in Pretoria.

SWAPO has suspended its 23-year guerrilla war and is now a legal political party in Namibia.

South Africa, which has ruled Namibia since World War I, agreed to implement the U.N. independence plan under the terms of a regional peace accord signed last December.

## Japan's royal couple wants modern monarchy

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japan's new emperor, in his first news conference since the death of Emperor Hirohito, said Friday he will fulfill his constitutional duty by promoting world peace and the happiness of his country's people.

Emperor Akihito, 55 and Empress Michiko, 54 appeared at the carefully orchestrated 37-minute meeting with Japanese and foreign reporters Friday at the Imperial palace, fielding questions that had been prepared long in advance.

Seated side by side at a table draped with gold brocade cloth, the royal couple spoke slowly and distinctly. The empress talked so softly her voice was like a whisper.

"I want to fulfill my duties as emperor that are laid out in the constitution to work for the happiness of the people and to have a monarchy that is fitting for the present age," Akihito said.

He ascended the Chrysanthemum throne Jan. 7 upon the

death of his enigmatic father, whose 62-year reign — the longest in Japanese history — covered the country's disastrous war in Asia and its subsequent recovery to become an economic superpower.

Akihito, a graying, quiet man, has long lived in the shadow of his father. Four of the 12 prepared questions asked Friday were about Hirohito, who is now known to the Japanese by his posthumous name, Emperor Showa. "The Showa emperor was a person who thought peace was very important ... and I believe he must have had many hardships," Akihito said, responding to a question about imperial responsibility for the war.

Akihito said he wanted to learn from the past and from his father's experience.

He said he would be willing to visit China and Korea — two victims of Japan's war actions — when the government decides it is

appropriate. He also said he would be willing to visit Okinawa, the southernmost Japanese island, where people remain bitter about the casualties and destruction they bore in the U.S. military assault during World War II. Hirohito never visited Okinawa after the war.

"In today's world all nations must be part of the international community," Akihito said. "The most important thing is to try to understand the feelings of others, and I hope to try hard to do so."

As in Hirohito's rare news conferences, some of the questions dealt with the imperial role in Japan's postwar constitution, which limits the emperor to performing ceremonial tasks and forbids him from exercising any political power. The previous constitution gave Hirohito nominal powers, and the wartime government asserted it was acting in his name.

"The constitution is the highest law, and I hope to strive to

protect that law together with the Japanese people," Akihito said.

The postwar constitution omitted all references to the emperor's special relationship with the gods of Shinto, Japan's indigenous religion, which ranks some traditionalists.

Akihito stressed the importance of freedom of speech. A Japanese reporter, in one of several follow-up questions that were permitted, asked if that freedom extended to those who oppose the monarchy.

"Yes, they are included," Akihito replied.

To a question about opening the Imperial palace, a huge, moated area in the centre of Tokyo, Akihito said he would welcome making the palace grounds more accessible to the public, which now is excluded from most areas.

Akihito has delivered several speeches since ascending the throne, but Friday was the first time he engaged in a question-and-answer session with reporters.



Emperor Akihito

Journalists representing 43 Japanese and 12 foreign news organisations attended Friday's news conference, the first since 1975 to be open to foreign correspondents.

## Superpowers agree on chemical weapons checks

**GENEVA (AP)** — The Soviet Union has agreed to U.S. demands aimed at starting inspections of chemical arms sites as early as possible before a global ban on the weapons is settled, officials of both sides said Thursday.

Moscow's shift was conveyed in a memorandum from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker when they met in Paris last week. Soviet disarmament official Nikita Smidovich told reporters in Moscow.

The Soviets have now accepted the U.S. position that joint inspection of each other's chemical weapons stockpiles should begin even before a global ban is ready for initiating, a Soviet delegate to the Geneva conference on disarmament said.

Moscow previously wanted to allow checks only after the treaty was completed and signed by governments. And the shift was aimed at clearing the way for earliest possible inspections, the Soviet official said.

"It is just a matter of time.

Initiating comes before signing," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The 40-nation disarmament conference has been debating a comprehensive convention to ban chemical weapons for more than two decades, but delegates have little hope of getting the draft accord ready in the immediate future.

The Soviet shift in Paris was part of separate superpower talks on chemical weapons.

The United States and Soviet Union, who have the world's biggest poison gas arsenals, say these talks can help the 40-nation negotiations but not substitute for progress there.

Disputes at the conference include how to monitor compliance with a future ban.

When the latest round of bilateral talks ended in June, both superpowers reported agreement on technical procedures for on-the-spot inspection, though the United States, which has always sought strict rules for industrial confidentiality, played down the accord.

In any case, officials said further negotiations were needed on exchanging chemical weapons data, a step that would precede the inspections. The talks are due to continue in the fall.

The Soviet official in Geneva said he could not give firm predictions about when data exchanges or inspections may begin.

A U.S. arms control official, while also confirming the Soviet shift, said, "There's a lot that remains to be resolved on the details" of any inspection.

### START

Also Thursday, both superpowers indicated that the latest round in separate U.S.-Soviet talks on reducing long-range nuclear forces has made some progress, but that disagreements on major issues remain.

Chief U.S. envoy Richard Burt expressed hope that the latest talks have paved the way for a "productive discussion" on the draft strategic arms reduction treaty (START) at next month's meeting between Baker and Shevardnadze in the United States.

## Drug delays Parkinson's disease symptoms — study

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A new study indicates a drug called deprenyl delays serious symptoms of Parkinson's disease and allows patients to work and function twice as long as people not taking it.

In a study to be published Friday in the Journal Science, Dr. J. William Langston of the California Parkinson's Foundation reported that patients with early symptoms of Parkinson's who were treated with deprenyl postponed progression of the neurological disease for an average of almost eight months.

"It seemed to slow the rate (of symptom progression) by about half and doubled the time before they needed treatment," Langston said in a telephone interview. "If the findings are verified by later studies, he said, 'it suggests that we are tapping into the basic mechanism' that causes Parkinson's."

Parkinson's is a brain disease marked by a progressive loss of brain cells. The symptoms include a shuffling gait, a fixed expression with unblinking eyes and, sometimes, emotional instability. It affects about one

person in 50, and strikes patients most frequently in their 50s and 60s.

The cause of the disease, which affects about 500,000 Americans, is unknown and it is not curable. Progression of Parkinson's can be slowed with a drug called levodopa, or L-Dopa, but this drug can have serious side effects and it loses its effectiveness over time.

Langston said his study was conducted to determine if deprenyl could slow the progress of the disease and thus give patients more time before they were forced to start taking L-Dopa.

The study involved 54 patients, all of whom were evaluated by tests to be at approximately the same early stage of Parkinson's. Half of the patients were treated with deprenyl and half with a placebo, or sugar pill.

On average, those patients receiving the placebo required L-Dopa therapy within 312 days. But those taking deprenyl did not require L-Dopa for an average of 548 days.

This means, said Langston, that serious symptoms of the disease — as evaluated by five dif-

ferent assessment methods — were delayed for more than 33 weeks on average.

"Overall, there was about a 50 per cent decline in the rate of progression," said the researcher.

Dr. Erwin Montgomery, a professor of neurology at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, who treats Parkinson's patients, said the study is "of very major significance."

"Reducing the onset of symptoms has a tremendous effect," he said. "This translates into people being employed longer. This can have a great importance in their lives."

The precise effect of deprenyl on brain tissue cannot be determined without an autopsy, Langston said, but if later studies show that the drug can actually protect brain cells that usually die in Parkinson's then the findings may be a step toward finding a cure.

"If we have altered the course of cell death in Parkinson's and slowed it down, it suggests that we are tapping into the basic mechanism that is causing those cells to die," said Langston. "That's a very exciting clue of the possible cause."

## Zaire to lift all Belgium sanctions

**BRUSSELS (R)** — President Mobutu Sese Seko said all Zaire's sanctions against Belgium would be lifted as a result of an accord last month settling the nine-month row between the two countries.

"All the measures taken during the crisis are cancelled. The situation is what it was before the crisis, as if the crisis had never happened," Mobutu said in an interview with the daily La Libre Belgique published Friday.

The row erupted after Belgian media accused Mobutu of extravagance and criticised his human rights record.

The interview was his first public comment on last month's agreement brokered by King Hassan of Morocco, under which Belgium will write off almost one-quarter of its former colony's \$1.2-billion debt to official and commercial lenders.

He confirmed that the Belgian national airline Sabena would be allowed to resume four flights a week to Kinshasa.

Zairean students and businesses ordered to leave Belgium were free to return and new agreements for development workers would be signed, he said.



Mobutu Sese Seko

Zaire also looked forward to new investments from Belgium in agriculture, industry, transport and communications.

"The new spirit generated by the Rabat accords should encourage Belgian private investors to take their place in Zaire and should make them feel secure," Mobutu said.

Asked about criticism of his human rights record during his 24 years in power, he confirmed that Amnesty International would be allowed to open an office in Zaire.

"Such accusations have never hurt me personally ... since my people love me and support me and I have no reason to organise a policy of violence against them," he added.

## Judge orders dealer to return mosaics

**INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AP)** — A U.S. judge ordered a U.S. art dealer to return to the Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus four 6th century mosaics purchased for \$1.1 million last summer in Switzerland.

U.S. District Judge James E. Noland said Thursday in his ruling that Peg Goldberg of suburban Indianapolis never obtained proper title to the artworks and has no right to possess them.

"The court finds that the evidence and testimony of the plaintiffs is more credible and persuasive," Noland said. "The plaintiffs have made a proper showing in all respects for the return of the mosaics."

"It's a wonderful news," said Jane Walton, a Washington attorney for the Cypriots.

"It will have a great impact on the flow of stolen art around the world," she added. "Certainly, it will make purchasers think twice before they buy stolen art."

Goldberg said she had no im-

mediate comment on the ruling. Her attorney, Joe C. Emerson, said he also had no immediate comment, except to say, "Of course, she's disappointed."

Goldberg, who is co-owner of Goldberg and Feldman Fine Arts Inc. in Carmel, Indiana, purchased the four mosaics in July 1988 from Aydin Dikman, a Turk living in Germany who claimed he was a former archaeologist for the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The mosaic fragments, each roughly 2 metres square, were taken from a larger work on the ceiling of the Panagia Kanakari Church in northern Cyprus in 1979.

Dating back to the year A.D. 525 the mosaics depict Christ as a boy, the Apostles James and Matthew and an archangel.

Goldberg offered the mosaics last January to the J. Paul Getty museum in Malibu, California, for \$20 million.

